

the **PARTISAN**

**Special
GUN RIGHTS ISSUE!**

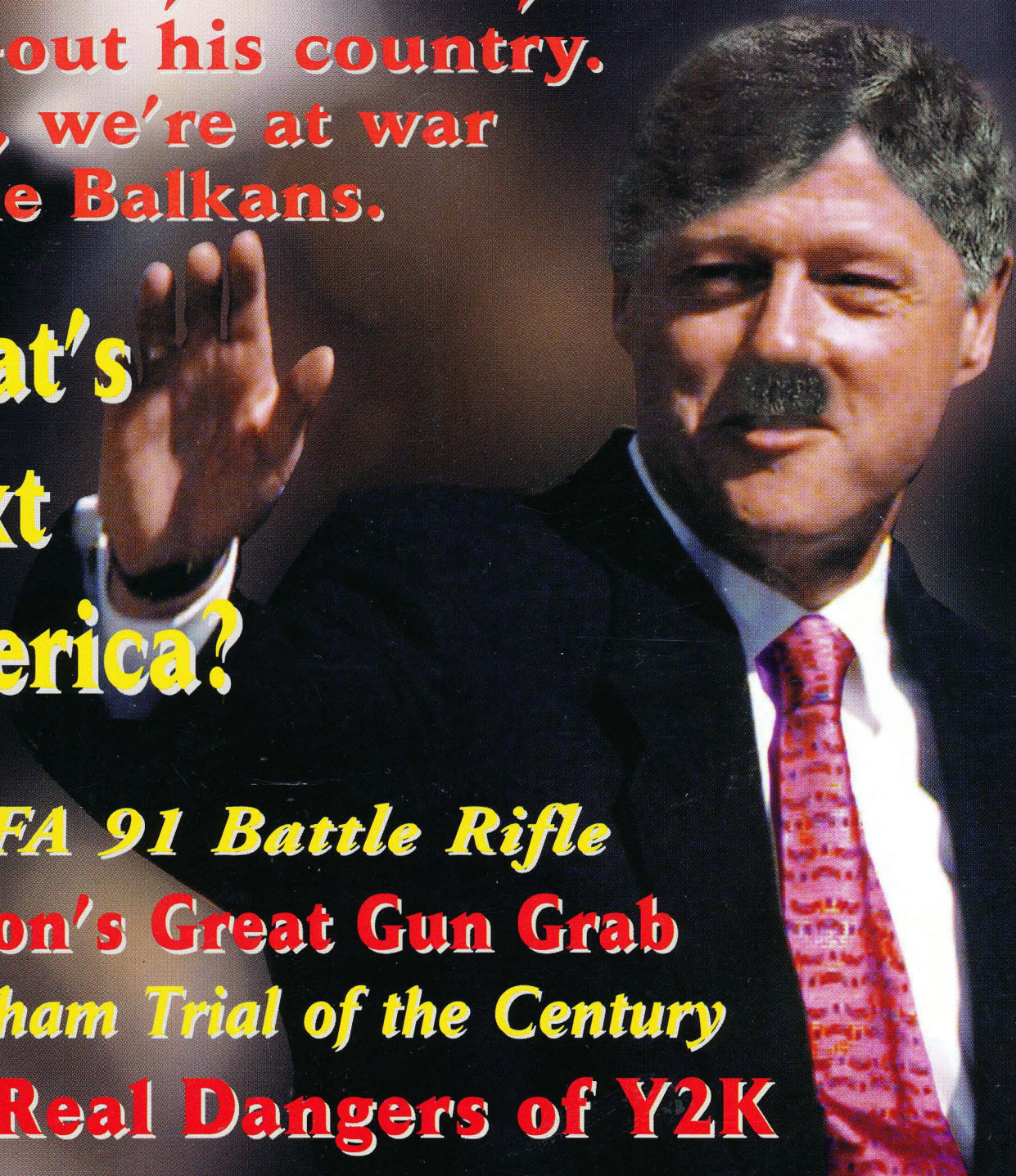
Journal of the American Freedom Fighter

Issue 2, Volume 1, Spring 1999 USA \$5.95

**He's lied, cheated, and
sold-out his country.
Now, we're at war
in the Balkans.**

**What's
next
America?**

The FA 91 Battle Rifle
Clinton's Great Gun Grab
The Sham Trial of the Century
The Real Dangers of Y2K




The Spring collection has arrived at Paladin Arms

Whether out for a Sunday picnic, or a more extended sojourn, April and Jim are well-equipped with their fashionable and functional attire—just part of the Spring collection, now available at Paladin Arms. In a radical departure from traditional Easter bonnets, April has done away with headwear altogether, letting all of her lustrous, blonde hair run wild and untamed over her shoulders.

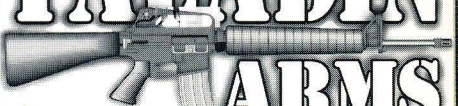
In keeping with the theme of running wild, she has shrewdly chosen the German flecktarn camouflage pattern, with bold and defiant splotches of color throughout. As a touch of understated elegance, she ever so gently cradles an Israeli Uzi submachine gun on her lap.

Jim keeps a vigilant eye from beneath the brim of his Dutch Army hat. In fact, Jim is clad from head to toe in the current issue Dutch BDU cammies. Throwing caution to the wind, Jim sports two different camouflage patterns on his pack and BDUs. His American CPF 90 backpack sports the U.S. woodland pattern and is ever so slightly different from the Dutch NATO pattern on his fatigues. We feel that the two patterns compliment each other very nicely and Jim's bold gamble may set the trend in this totally unpredictable, anything-goes millenium season. The new FA 91 battle rifle rounds out his outfit with its sleek and solid black profile.

April, the clever little fox that she is, has persuaded Jim to hump the load. With all the make-up, accessories and stuff that a girl just can't do without, it's a good thing that Jim has a CPF 90. It's 5000 cubic inch capacity and state-of-the-art suspension system will make the going a lot easier. After all, there's just no way of telling what April may find along the way.



At Paladin Arms we have the finest selection of politically incorrect, pre-ban firearms and high capacity magazines available to the public anywhere. In addition, we have an extensive selection of genuine, functional military clothing and equipment from all around the world. We also have one of the largest selections of books and videos, optics, cutlery, holsters, tactical gear, body armor, survival equipment and anything else you can think of that would raise Sarah Brady's blood pressure. Remember....if you see it in *The Partisan*, you can get it at Paladin Arms.

PALADIN

ARMS

The Partisan

The Journal of the
American Freedom Fighter



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~~Letters to the Editor~~

a letter from the publisher

Thank you for your kindness and support. The response to the first issue of *The Partisan* has been tremendous. I really can't begin to describe how good it feels to hear from so many like-minded people who for so long have felt they were alone in their convictions. The feeling here at *The Partisan* is that we have really started something.

The strong reaction we received from so many people, both pro and con, show that if nothing else, we hit a nerve in the body politic of America. The negative reactions we got much to our surprise came not from the traditional Marxist left but from the Nazi left.

I don't accept the false, illogical political spectrum the straight media uses to obfuscate virtually identical philosophies by putting the Communists at the extreme left of the political spectrum and the Nazis at the extreme right. This is absurd. The very word "Nazi" is an abbreviation for the German word for "National" as in National Socialist Worker's party of Germany-the Nazi party of Adolph Hitler.

Nazism and Communism are in essence the same thing. When one judges the morality of a political system by the rights possessed by the individual versus those held by the state, the thin line between the two all but disappears. If you accept the premise that the extreme left of the political spectrum represents totalitarian states, then the only logical thing to do would be to put Communism and Nazism together on the extreme left and put anarchy on the extreme right.

Forgive my little diatribe, but I felt it needed to be said. At any rate, two of the three attacks leveled against *The Partisan* simply regurgitated the stale, cynical dogma of racist, anti-Semitic conspiracy theory-attacks so thoroughly devoid of legitimate intellectual discourse that they do not deserve to take up precious space in the magazine. The third attack came from a disgruntled subscriber who was upset that the type was too large and some of the articles we ran had been in print before. His refund check is in the mail.

On the positive side, we've received literally hundreds of letters, E-mails and phone calls with truly incredible words of support, thanks and encouragement. It is this type of response from our readership that makes all those months of work without pay, the late nights at the office and the considerable financial risk all worthwhile.

Since the publication of the first issue we've received great reviews in *Soldier of Fortune* and *American Survival Guide* magazines, as well as a terrific endorsement from the "G" man, G. Gordon Liddy.

Virtually every newsstand, magazine shop and distributor that has agreed to carry *The Partisan* has sold out of copies-most of which have been re-stocked and sold out two or three times! As we go to press we have sold over 70% of our first printing. Experts in the publishing industry tell me that is virtually unprecedented. Almost all of the people who have sent in money for subscriptions are requesting that their subscriptions start with the first issue. We expect to be sold out of the first issue by the time the third issue goes to press in the Summer. So much for the prophets of doom and naysayers that assured me I would fail.

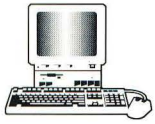
We are well aware of the myriad of typographical mistakes we made in the first issue (including the wrong phone number) as well as the need to balance the text with more photographs and art work. We are also well aware of the fact that we have been less than diligent about keeping our web site updated in a timely fashion. We are taking active steps to address all of these problems. We have a new telephone number (303) 774-6539, which you should actually be able to speak to a live human being if you call.

The Partisan is my first effort at publishing and I am still very much at the bottom of the learning curve. There is no question that I will continue to make mistakes and suffer the consequences of some bad judgement calls, but that is all part of launching any new undertaking. I welcome any advice, criticism and suggestions that you might have.

Our goal is to make *The Partisan* the preeminent voice of those rational, freedom-loving Americans who yearn to re-claim their birthright of liberty. From all indications based on the response we've received from the first issue, we are off to a very good start. Thank you again for your support and encouragement.

To all those voices of negativity who say that it is hopeless, that freedom in America is lost I shake my head and chuckle to myself. Hell, I've just gotten started.

Bob Glass
Publisher



Letters to the Editor

Dear Sirs,

I thought your first issue was just great. The interview with Mr. McNulty was mind blowing—worth the price of my subscription alone. What a scoop! After reading it I immediately stripped and cleaned my M-1A and re-packed my ALICE pack. How much more proof does one need that the constitution is shredded beyond all recognition?

Wayne Costigan Dover Plains, New York

Whoa..... You took me by surprise!!!

I was at a recent Denver Gun Show (where I picked up this great AK 47..completing my weapons purchase for survival..) and as an after thought picked up your magazine... It trully is nothing like I've ever read. Your editorial was blunt and to the point. After reading it I was thinking if I could have read it any better... I couldn't have. Every point you made was ...how to say this... On the money!!! If they ever put you in jail for this... you can count on me to donate time and money to get you out and keep you publishing!!!! I used to consider myself a Republican... Then I became a Democrat.. Then Independant party for a while... Now I consider myself a "Partisan"!!!! I think you have just created the 4th party!!

May the God's keep you safe and protected..
Hawk

Hi Bob,

I subscribed to *The Partisan* because of, in part, my respect for you and also because I am concerned with where our country is headed. What I found was a journal full of words that needed to be said and the encouragement to become more active. Your mix of topics makes for interesting reading and complements the fine effort you put into the graphics and layout. Since you did print a good article on the SKS perhaps you will be running more articles on other firearms? If this is the case may I suggest an article on the FN-FAL..."The Free World's Right Arm" — a great choice for the Journal of the American Freedom Fighter. I'm eagerly looking forward to the next issue of the Partisan. Your first issue of the Journal has a wonderful article titled Guerrilla Garb: Swiss Alpenflage. I'm a long time member of the FN/FAL Association, an internet group of about 150 participants, and we discuss many topics ranging

from all types of firearms (FN-FAL being the main focus) to Y2K to survival equipment, etc., etc. With your approval, I would like to share the information contained in the inset of this article with the other members. I would be happy to give credit to the Partisan and information on how to subscribe. Please let me know. BTW, do you have a pair of Swill Alpenflange that would fit an ape? At 6'5" and 250lbs. getting stuff that fits is sometimes difficult. Best Regards,

John Kruse

Bob,

The Paladin Arms' ad on the back cover of *The Partisan* is worth the price of the magazine! I enjoy creative writing. The Partisan is good reading. Nice work. Hope to see more. I probably won't subscribe as after being in your store several times I am now hooked for good and will be back!

Dave Bontrager, Denver

Dear Gentlemen,

I just want to take the opportunity to say that after reading you magazine cover to cover I must say its the best publication on upholding the fundamental of freedom and liberty I have ever read. I also like the other articles on equipment and fieldcraft. It has something for everyone who is interested in assessing the freedoms or lack thereof now confronting these United States. I in my humble opinion bestow my compliments on a fine publication and I wish you the best of luck !!! I believe that these politicians that are now running this country have corrupted the system to the limit. It is now time to swing the pendulum back to where it once began. The money has corrupted this system over the years and must be stopped in politics, it has eroded the entire process and is undermining our freedoms and liberties. We now have new Kings and Queens who seem to be certainly above the law. To me this indicates tyrannical tendencies of the government. However, I am not sure I or anyone else knows how to stop it without an armed conflict. Through out history regimes do not just step away from power, they are force out, how is this going to be possible when our laws forbid the overthrow of the government, it has protected itself from a revolution which seems odd considering this country was founded



Letters to the Editor

on revolution. Good Luck with the magazine and am looking forward to your paladin web site.

Sincerely,

Dean J. D'Alessandro, Illinois

Awesome site!

You cannot imagine how thrilled I am to see your magazine on its way. It is a very good sign that the militant right is starting to see the big picture and is becoming more philosophically consistent. I thought the advent of *The Resister* was a good sign of this, but your magazine, with the endorsement of SOF, is really a sign that the patriot movement is moving away from the misguided conspiracy-alien theorists and the collectivist racists and is now shifting towards Objectivism and libertarian thought (I know, Ayn Rand is probably rolling in her grave over those two terms being used together). *The Resister* has been such a force because of its consistency and its no compromise, hard nose stand, with factual, reasoned arguments and evidence. Who those gentlemen purport to be has allot to do with the respect they get and their credibility. I am not at their level of military knowledge, but as an ex-paratrooper, I can usually separate the real-deal from bull and haven't seen any glaring errors yet. People listen to them. I think the same will be true of *The Partisan*. You have a great stable of writers, many of which I am familiar with. I Met Mr. Janich at the S.H.O.T. show in Vegas while I was visiting with James Keating (I'm sure he won't remember me). Very nice gentleman and a good blade author. I've read his book on knife fighting. The rest I am familiar with from magazines and the web. You are off to a great start! I read your intro "Why *The Partisan*?" It was like reading my own thoughts. I agree that we must act or liberty will perish. We are in a race with the statist who wish to enslave us. It is a race to see if we can educate and activate enough of our fellow citizens to peacefully bring this nation back from the collectivist abyss it is slipping into before the statist can deny us the tools to do so. These tools are the internet, AM and short wave radio, home schooling, and newsletters and magazines like yours. I fear that a time will come when we are not yet strong enough to do so, but are strong enough to be a serious threat to the national police state that grows larger each day; at which time it will resort to violence to preserve itself. This will be the only choice of the statist when they realize the gig is about up. Our challenge is to halt the growth of the police state and begin to reign it in and de-fang

it while we educate citizens enough to restore our constitutional republic. It looks as though we will have to catch them by surprise so that by the time they see our strength it is too late to stop us, while at the same time deterring overt and open war by them. This is no easy task. If we fail in this the mass of the population will experience an American version of National Socialism while patriots like us will face the prospects of a terror like that of Hitler, Stalin, Mao or Pol Pot, with one vital difference; an American dictatorship will have the UN and foreign troops to aid it in putting down resisters and dissidents. This sounds far-fetched to some, but there is valid reason to think just such a "peace keeping" mission would be initiated by the statist to preserve their power. I agree that we must do all we can NOW! I prefer to sweat now rather than bleed later. issue.

Keep it up.

Stewart Rhodes

Please enter my subscription to *The Partisan*. I have visited your web site and enjoyed several articles. I suspect that I have been a "freedom fighter" for some time on my own-at least striving for self-reliance and am now homesteading. Self-reliance is difficult these days and I know we live in tyranny. There is little freedom and much regulation and taxation, sometimes double taxation. I don't know if we can restore some of our personal freedoms or not but we must follow our conscience and do what we know is right no matter the outcome. I'm double taxed into poverty! No programs for me. I wouldn't want them but I would like to be left alone. Sorry to rant-but I am a single female living alone in a very remote area of the mountainous region of Alabama. Without the right to defend myself I would be the proverbial sitting duck in a house a little nicer than those near me = target. I am a responsible, mature woman who has had only 1 moving violation (ticket) my whole life-no criminal record, arrest or anything of the sort-aspirer to be Christian, at least moral. The very idea that I should not be allowed to defend myself is outrageous! Arrest the criminals and leave the rest of us alone! I just had to blow off a little steam at recent developments (suits against gun manufacturers) etc. But you get a lot of letters like this-people are made as hell and not going to take much more-Let's hope we can be heard.

Amelia Kay Edgeman, Alabama

They used to say,
"It can't happen here!"
But it has —
numerous times.

SOF

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE is a select publication with the courage to search for — and publish — the truth, even if it means taking on the elements of the United States Government (or any other).

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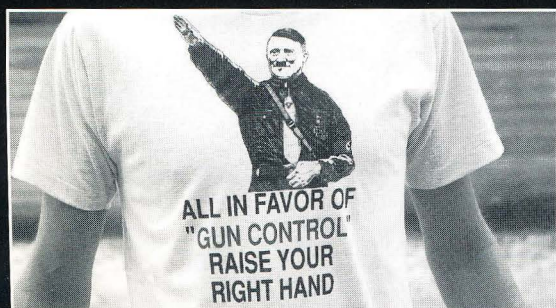


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The Partisan

The Printed Word

Review of

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

Every so often a book is written that is so powerful and disturbing in its content that it transcends the genre of literature and leaps straight into the forefront a nation's politics and culture. Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* exposed the horror and injustice of slavery in the American South. Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* kindled the spiritual fires in the hearts of colonial patriots that chose to risk everything and take up arms against the oppression of the British crown.

Unintended Consequences by John Ross is a new book that is destined to play a major role in the burgeoning freedom movement now taking root throughout America. Beginning at the turn of the century and going right up to the present *Unintended Consequences* is a novel that paints a sweeping historical landscape of America's gun culture and the relentless efforts of the government to destroy it.

Ross uses fictional characters, men and women whose lives are deeply touched by political turmoil and firearms and weaves these separate lives and stories together into a masterpiece of suspense, drama and passion with an explosive and powerful ending. Regardless of a person's political or philosophical beliefs, it is hard to imagine anyone reading Ross' book and not coming away with feelings of outrage, pride and a deep sense of concern.

John Ross has done a first rate job in meticulously researching the myriad of laws, rules and regulations that have been passed and enacted during the last century concerning firearms. Not only does Ross do his homework in terms of studying the laws themselves but in many cases he digs much deeper and gets to the bottom line-the real reason that these laws were passed and their tragic, inevitable and unintended consequences.

Ross does a wonderful job of tracing the history of firearms and their affect on American culture over the last century. He shows how guns have played such a large part in people's lives and how they continue to play that role in a very positive, almost mythological way.

He shows how firearms ownership uniquely shaped the American culture and psyche in terms of independence, self-sufficiency, pride, and the celebration of freedom itself. *Unintended Consequences* does not so much glorify or glamorize the gun culture as much as it puts it in an accurate historical and sociological perspective. The book goes a long way in dispelling the myths and viscous attacks currently being perpetrated against gun owners by the press and the Clinton Administration.

The book's most thoroughly developed character is Henry Bowman, the son of an American World War II air corps instructor. Henry

Bowman lives the life that boy's fantasies are made of—growing up in rural Missouri, taught to fly a plane by his father, taught to shoot by his uncle and having a caring and loving family that nurtures his ascendance from boyhood into manhood.

We see how the joy and innocence of Henry's life is shattered by events beyond his control, events that do not afford him the luxury of standing on the sidelines. We see how Henry's loss of innocence coincides with America's loss of innocence and we see how as the values, ethics and laws of a nation change, so do the lives of its people.

One of the great achievements of the book is how Ross manages to show the psychological and epistemological nature of those people who yearn for freedom versus the nature of those who seek to destroy it. I could not help but be reminded of the writings of Ayn Rand's novels *Atlas Shrugged* and *The Fountainhead*.

The book is long, 861 pages to be exact but it is not a long read. The first third of the book sets the historical backdrop for the action that develops in the second part of the book and climaxes in the third. Ross does something that has not been done before and that is to give a historical perspective to the myriad of heavy handed laws that have restricted people's freedom and their right to keep and bear arms in particular.

He traces the many excesses and outrages perpetrated by the government against its own citizens from the Bonus Army March in Washington D.C. in the 1930s to the tragedy at Waco, Texas in the 1990s. He shows the continuum of this oppression and how it has led us to the polarized and volatile situation we find ourselves in today.

Perhaps the greatest single achievement of John Ross' book is the detailed, eloquent and passionate warning he gives to those tyrants and would-be tyrants who make their livings by making and enforcing oppressive legislation that rob people of their freedom and destroy their lives in the process.


Unintended Consequences is truly a must-read book. It will give you both spiritual as well as historical and intellectual ammunition to wage the verbal part of the war we are now fighting in to regain our lost freedoms. I believe that the way

Ayn Rand's novels gave birth to a philosophical renaissance and awakening in the last few decades *Unintended Consequences* will shape the gun rights movement and quite possibly the entire Libertarian movement in the years to come.

The way Ayn Rand used science fiction and idealized characters to give body to her philosophy, John Ross has used a much more down-to-earth literary style and characters that are not so much extraordinary as they are ordinary people caught up in extraordinary circumstances. The truly frightening thing about *Unintended Consequences* is precisely the fact that the story line is not far-fetched at all. In fact many people that have read the book feel that it is only a matter of time before something very similar happens.

Right now we are at the crossroads of the great American experiment in liberty. With the constitution as our road map we approach the second millennium and find our republic and our government very different than what was envisioned by our founding fathers. It seems to many of us that those sacred and unique gifts of liberty that have so long distinguished the United States of America from every other country are fast disappearing.

Those who seek to destroy the wondrous and magnificent part of America that has grown and flourished in the bright sunshine of freedom take heed in what ordinary American citizens were driven to do in a work of fiction. The backdrop for the novel is the true history of the United States. The actions of the government in recent years and the Clinton administration in particular make a scenario like what happens in *Unintended Consequences* dangerously real. Hopefully the novel will become so popular that the bad guys will get a clear picture of what is in store for them if they continue to tread on our rights and our lives.

A wise man will see and hear the rattle on the snake's tail shaking and back off. The fool will not be satisfied until the snake's venomous fangs have planted themselves in his flesh. Let us hope that the rattle of *Unintended Consequences* is loud enough for all of the tyrants and would-be tyrants to hear, lest we have to bite them. 

The Partisan

Interview:



With
John Ross

Author of *Unintended Consequences*

9/27/98 @ the SOF Convention Las Vegas

Glass: What motivated you to write *Unintended Consequences*?

Ross: History repeats itself. When speaking about Waco or some other infringement of our rights as I've often been asked to do, I would give some example from history to illustrate that what we are now seeing, and what we find so upsetting is nothing new. Throughout our entire history we've had people who have wanted to deny other citizens their rights. It's always been a struggle since day one. So I would talk about the Bonus Army March. I felt that by reminding people of things like that I would show them that we always have to fight.

What I've learned after giving a number of these talks is that I wasn't reminding anyone of anything. This was all brand new information to them. They had never read nor heard about The Bonus Army March. They didn't know about the Warsaw Ghetto resistance. They had forgotten about the situation in Philadelphia in 1985-1986 where Mayor Wilson Goode dropped a bomb on top of the roof of the "Move" people.

So someone said to me "you know, you ought to write a history book or something." I responded by saying that people don't buy large numbers of history

books. Then I said without thinking that the way to get people to understand about those kinds of incidents would be if a popular author wove them into the framework of an interesting novel.

People who don't really care about nuclear submarines learn about them when they read Tom Clancy's *The Hunt for Red October* because it's an interesting story. They learn about the kinds of decisions that our leaders have to make when they deploy a nuclear sub and the tactics that are used - whatever.

Tom Clancy isn't likely to write a story that incorporates all this stuff into a book, but I could. The more I thought about it the more I was convinced that there would be a market for it and we'd sell out at least the first printing. I convinced a small publisher of that and we were off to the races.

Glass: You mentioned that you were asked to speak on various occasions. Are you by trade an historian, a professor or a teacher?

Ross: Absolutely not. In college I had a double major in English and economics. Since 1980-1981 I've been an investment broker. But I've always been interested in historic events and in the things that have really shaped

our country. And I do believe that history repeats itself. The mess that we're seeing in Washington is evidence of that.

Glass: I've read your book. It's clear that you have a very detailed knowledge of history. How exhaustive was the research that you did for the book?

Ross: I didn't do very much research specifically for this book. I would say less than 100 hours. And that's because I knew most of the things that are in my book already.

Glass: To a certain extent it was a labor of love.

Ross: Yea. The other thing which people have asked and perhaps was part of your question that I didn't answer is why I wrote it or how I wrote it. The story line was an idea that has been taking shape in my mind for almost a decade before I started writing.

One of the pivotal events in the book occurs when the FBI gets involved in a shootout in Miami. I don't know if this happened anywhere else, but in the gun store that I like to frequent, people sat around and talked about that. No one said it quite this bluntly but I know what was going through everyone's mind and that was "Gee if a couple of bank robbers are able to be as effective as these two guys were with no body armor and no real preparation, what would happen if it were more than two people against the Feds and they didn't think that they were doing anything wrong?"

That stuck in the back of my mind. Later on when we had Ruby Ridge, as we had Waco, as we had John Lawmaster and other examples of federal abuse of authority the story line and the "what if" part grew more detailed. The picture got clearer and clearer. I ended up using what I thought was the most likely way that such a conflict might start and that would be by accident.

Someone who believes that he is facing street criminals when he comes under attack and then discovers after the fact that he's just gotten into a battle and killed federal agents. "Oh God - what do I do now?"

Glass: I own a gun store and I sell your book in my shop. I received an anonymous call threatening me demanding that I stop selling your book. From what I understand from the full page ad in *Shotgun News* and from other sources I'm not the only one. Have you been on the receiving end of any threats? Has there been any intimidation or have there been any negative repercussions from the government or anyone else?

Ross: Not from the government. The only thing that

I've had happen that was negative is that I've received some hate mail from Nazi affiliated groups.

Glass: That might be a good thing.

Ross: Yea, I don't have any problem with that. They are greatly offended that one of the lesser characters - but key characters who is portrayed heroically and I think he should be—is a Jew who participates in the Warsaw Ghetto resistance. And they find that very offensive.

Glass: Were you trying to make any kind of statement, personal or political or otherwise, having a Jewish character as heroic?

Ross: No. What I wanted to show is what actually happened. The Warsaw Ghetto resistance did happen. A handful of Jews with fewer guns than it would take to fill up the trunk of a Buick held off the German Army for longer than Poland held off the German Army. That is a fact. If it had been some other nationality or religion I would have used whoever it was.

There are some writers who are so skillful that they can make a reader fall into a story that he knows is absolutely impossible. Stephen King comes to mind. And that's a tremendous talent. It is a talent I don't have. When I write a story it has to be something that I know is possible. And that's why whenever I was at a plot turn and the characters were faced with having to decide what to do, I had them do something that people in real life in the past have chosen to do when faced with the same dilemma.

When the president is faced with a dilemma near the end of my book, I have him elect to do what Abraham Lincoln did faced with exactly the same problem. You can argue that it's not likely that that would happen today but you can't say that it's impossible either because it already happened.

Glass: Did you ever learn anything about the source of the threats and what was going on?

Ross: I don't have any proof. But the publisher and I have both heard from a number of people such as yourself about this and it has happened in at least six states. So it's not localized in one specific area. I cannot believe that it is any kind of official policy. I believe from what I've been told that in each case it's individual agents taking personal offense at the story line and throwing their weight around. We do not at this point have anyone on videotape where we can make a case. It's all a little more subtle than that. But it has opened a lot of people's eyes that rights all go together. You don't pick and choose.

Glass: You had mentioned before that you were confident that the first printing of the book would sell out. How have sales of the book been so far?

Ross: It is about to go on the press next week (first week of October 1998) for its fourth hard cover printing. It has sold over 30,000 copies so far. And that may be some kind of record for a book this long by a first-time author that is not published by a major publishing house with a big advance push. This book is selling better now than it did when it first came out two and a half years ago.

Glass: Books written by Ayn Rand seem to buck that trend as well. As the years go by her books sell as well as they did ten or twenty or fifty years ago. Have you read any Ayn Rand? Has her philosophy influenced your outlook?

Ross: That's an embarrassing question because one of the first national reviews of my book was written by a syndicated columnist from Las Vegas (Vin Suprynowitz) and the headline of his syndicated column that day was "Finally a modern novel of liberty to rival Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*." At that time I had never read anything by her. I felt like I had neglected my education. So afterwards I read *Atlas Shrugged*. That book is heavy on philosophy but to me it falls apart on realism. You have things happening that are physically impossible.

Glass: *Atlas Shrugged* is after all a work of science fiction.

Ross: At the end of the story all of the rich, successful, productive people take their balls and go home. They go off in this green valley in Colorado where they're protected by this magic force field that makes them invisible when viewed from above. If I had written the book instead of living in the valley and being protected by the force field I'd have them living near their factories producing things protected by the Springfield.

Glass: You prefer your writing to be totally grounded in current reality?

Ross: Yea.

Glass: Did you find yourself in philosophical agreement with the thesis of *Atlas Shrugged*?

Ross: To some degree, yes. That's fair. I feel a closer affinity to it than disagreement with it.

Glass: Is *Unintended Consequences* coming out in paperback?

Ross: Eventually. But you don't sell the paperback rights when the hardcover sales are still climbing.

Glass: Right

Ross: There is a strong possibility that it will end up as a movie. Several producers are looking at it seriously. The way things work in Hollywood all of a sudden several of them could want it at the same time. If that happens it will boost sales. You would have to do multiple printings. You certainly wouldn't want to sell the paperback rights cheap before that happens.

Glass: Has John Milius expressed any interest in the book?

Ross: We've talked about it. To be blunt he hasn't read the book yet. And I don't expect him to because it's awfully long. The last time I talked to him he said "everyone that I shoot with and do things with tells me that I have to read your book", And I said, "Well do you want another copy so you can start?" And he said, "I just don't have time."

Glass: I heard that you are working on a sequel.

Ross: Yes. I can't promise when it will be out but I think around Christmas time of 1999.

Glass: Do you have a working title? Possibly *Beneath the Planet of Unintended Consequences*?

Ross: The working title is *Detour*.

Glass: Can you tell us a little bit about it?

Ross: The bad guys don't give up because in real life they don't give up. And we see that the main issue of *Unintended Consequences* has far-reaching implications and a large number of other groups and people with seemingly unassociated interests are drawn into the conflict.

Glass: Having become somewhat of a spokesman for gun issues along the Front Range of Colorado where my gun shop is, I have suffered numerous repercussions such as the refusal of a major bank to allow me to open up a checking account. (See "Snub Knows No Limits" in Volume 1 Issue 1 Fall 1998 *Partisan*). I view that as part

of the continuing process of the villianization of the gun culture — marginalizing people who own guns. What do you think about the fact that people that own guns are often portrayed by the media and the Clinton administration as off center or not well-adjusted or lunatic fringe or extremists - what are your thoughts about that?

Ross: What you're describing is true at least to some extent. Part of the reason is that as our country has become more urban we have a smaller and smaller percentage of the population having anything to do with hunting. And so that part of the gun culture - the people who hunt a lot dwindle - and it will probably continue to dwindle at least as a percentage of the population. However the good news from the standpoint of people in the gun culture is that we've got more and more states recognizing right to carry, and one of the side affects of that is that we now have millions of women across the country with carry licenses and millions of women who are taking training courses who have absolutely no interest in hunting. Their interest in target shooting is a product of their wanting to be skilled with a gun for personal protection. This big group of women that are interested in self defense is a very powerful force because they are the very people that when they go somewhere they say "Wait a minute-why do have to wait five days?"

The people in the gun culture have gotten unfortunately used to having their rights trampled on. They're used to being fingerprinted and photographed and undergoing waiting periods and being treated like dirt, but you take a woman who realizes that now she's on the night shift she needs a gun for protection and a concealed carry license and she finds that "Hey I have to wait five days to take this training course? I didn't have to take a training course to go vote".

Those kind of things have created a very strong sub set of the gun culture and I think that's very good. And we're going to see more of that.

Glass: I agree with what you are saying as evidenced by the fact that large gun companies are marketing handguns geared for women. Smith & Wesson for example has an entire line known as the "Lady Smith" line of handguns designed and marketed specifically for women.

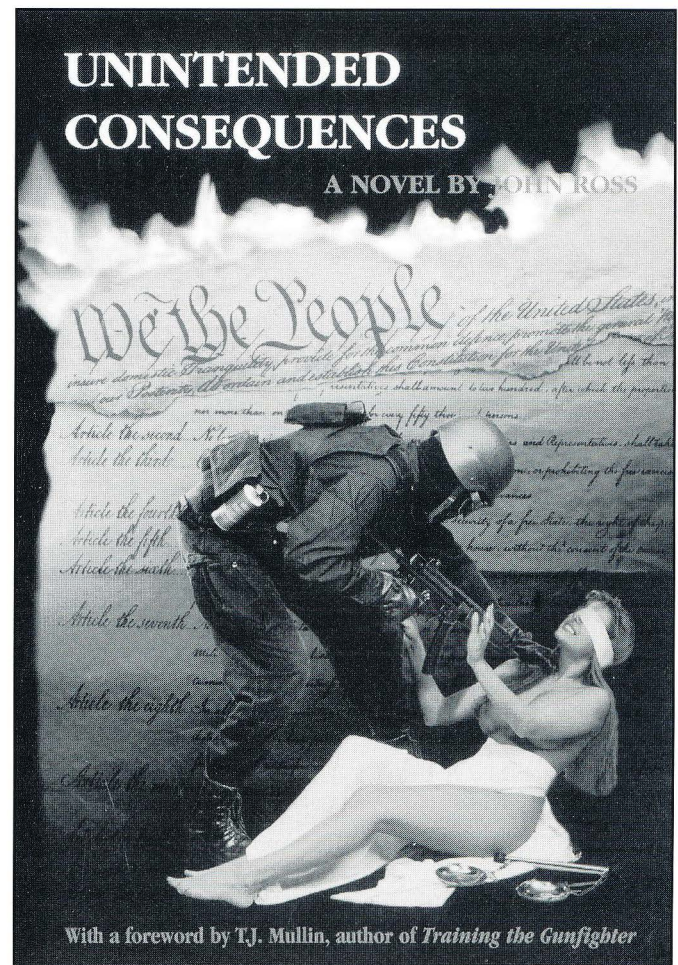
In terms of defending gun rights, I think it would be safe to say that the preeminent organization in the United States given the responsibility of defending gun rights is the NRA. What do you think about the kind of job the NRA has been doing?

Ross: Again, to answer that we need to look at history. We need to remember that the NRA was founded in

1871 and it was founded as an organization to promote skills, safety, competition, and that sort thing. The problem of having our gun rights taken away from us or infringed is relatively recent.

So we have an organization that was founded on recreation and safety and skills and we're expecting it to champion individual rights battles. They've done quite a bit of that, but they also have a large obligation in their charter to work on recreation. And so you've got people in the NRA who wish that they could just ignore the legislation problems. And then you've got people who feel that they shouldn't spend one nickel on competition or anything like that until after we've beaten back the anti Second Amendment threat. That's why you're seeing the proliferation of other smaller groups that have focused solely on the individual rights aspect such as JPFO [Jews For The Preservation of Firearms Ownership].

JPFO accomplishes the most per dollar of any gun rights organization I'd ever seen, There is also GOA [Gun Owners of America] which is strong and getting bigger which is great. There should be that kind of organization in every state and in every city and that's happening. We've got tremendous numbers of grass roots groups. So the question is, is the NRA doing a good job? Yes - they can always do better. You're always going to



have that split between people who are concerned about their shotgun rights getting infringed and therefore let's not waste our time and money on fighting for these black rifles. There's always going to be people like that, and we have learn to pull together and try to do all of the things that we need to do.

Glass: What do you think about that element of the gun culture or gun owners that frown upon people who want to own military type rifles, black rifles, and fully automatic weapons: I've gotten a lot of flak from those kind of people that say, "Well it's because of people like you that we have all of this antigun legislation coming at us".

Ross: I think they're misguided. What you need to remember is that it is fun to go skeet and trap shooting. That's great. But the Bill of Rights is not about recreation. And the most important reason to defend the Bill of Rights is for freedom. Imagine for a moment that you had laws being passed that said that you can play Scrabble but you can't make a political speech unless its approved first. You can write poetry as long as its not political. And the only thing that target shooting and hunting have to do with freedom is that they're good practice. So the people that wish that military weapons

collectors, admirers and shooters would go away and quit causing problems, they've got it backwards. The right to keep and bear arms that are most suitable for conflict is the reason that we have the Second Amendment. The founding fathers did not put that in there because they always wanted citizens of our country to be able to enjoy hunting and target shooting any more than they put the First Amendment in there solely because they wanted people to be able to enjoy playing Scrabble or listening to love poems.

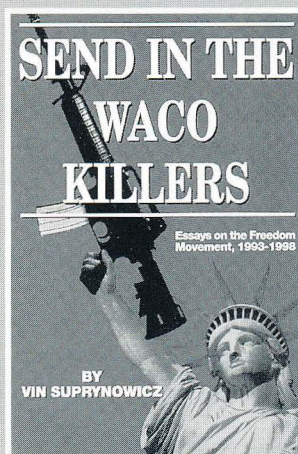
Glass: You are currently a candidate for Congress in Missouri's second district, which is in St. Louis County.

Ross: That is correct.

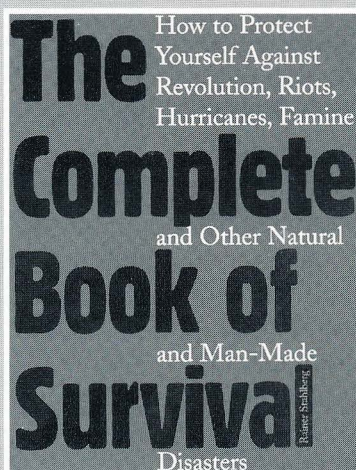
Glass: If you have the good fortune of being elected and President Clinton is still in office, will you call for his resignation?

Ross: Maybe. And the reason I don't give you a definite answer is that I think we've got some serious problems with Mr. Gore coming down the road. The public is not going to be happy at the prospect of one president resigning and then the vice president taking office and shortly thereafter being forced to resign. I think what

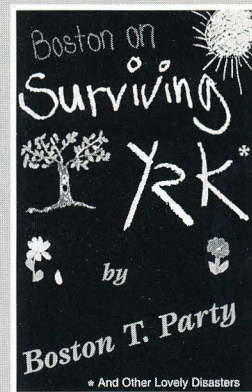
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would be best for the Democratic Party is for Mr. Gore to resign first. President Clinton should appoint a successor who is free from scandal and is acceptable to just about everyone. Under those circumstances I think his [President Clinton's] resignation would be appropriate.

Glass: What do think the chances are of that happening?

Ross: Small.

Glass: Your hesitation about calling for the resignation of the President has not so much a question of whether or not he should resign, but what will he leave us in the wake of his resignation. Your main concern is having the president resign in such a way that he leaves the country in capable hands.

Ross: You're never going to have everyone agree on a successor.

Glass: Sure. Someone less tainted by scandal.

Ross: It's not just scandal. It's the kind of scandal. The idea of selling out to the Chinese government is appalling to me. That's the kind of thing that is absolutely unacceptable in the White House. The vice president has some serious problems in that area from everything that I've read. We're not going to put those problems behind us if Al Gore steps into the Oval Office.

Glass: Let me ask you a question going a little bit in a different direction. On December 1 the second part of the Brady Bill is going to kick in, which will require a federal background check handled by the FBI for all firearm purchases, not just handguns. This will include rifles and shotguns. In *Unintended Consequences* you detail the myriad of erosions of the Second Amendment and all of the different gun laws. How do you put this new law in perspective with what has gone on in the past? What effect do you think this second part of the Brady Bill will have on the gun culture and gun purchases and things like that?

Ross: To put it in perspective, it's more of the same: yet another infringement that no one would ever tolerate if it involved anything else. Being an incurable optimist, I hope and believe that implementing this law will create more angry people that were previously acquiescent. You have things like the assault rifle ban in California with mandatory registration and you get 2 percent compliance. I think that's a very good sign. And when more and more people have their oxes gored we will eventually

reach a point of critical mass where there is more on our side than there is on the side of the forces of the nanny state.

Glass: I've noticed in my gun shop that over the summer, which is traditionally a slow time for gun sales, gun sales were brisk. With a lot of the sales that I made, people were quite up front in telling me that it had to do with Brady II. They wanted to buy their guns before Brady II was implemented. Do you think that after the implementation of Brady II that licensed dealers and gun shops are going to see a marked decline in sales?

Ross: I have no specific knowledge, I do analyze business and companies in my real job and what you're describing is pretty typical - if you have something that causes an upswing it's generally not going to be permanent, and so if there's a surge in purchases due to a government distortion, which is what you're describing, there will probably be at some point a slow period. But the good news is that all those people that were getting in early they're showing you by their actions that they've become more sensitized to this and that's a good thing.

Glass: Going back to your book, as the story progresses we see a situation where American citizens faced with extraordinary circumstances pick up arms to defend their rights. How likely do you see that as a scenario in the real world? Do you think that things will become so dire in terms of erosion of liberty and Second Amendment rights where we actually see individuals picking up firearms and engaging not necessarily in the initiation of violence but possibly using guns to defend themselves? What do you think are the chances that we may actually see armed conflict in this country involving firearms between agents of the government and private citizens who feel that this is their last chance to defend their freedom?

Ross: I don't know the answer to that. But I would point out that it really hasn't happened yet. This is an awfully big country with a lot of people. Its kind of like the threat of nuclear war — it's a bad threat and it's something to be worried about but at the same time we haven't had it in over 50 years. And that's good.

The problem that I see is that some of the recent actions of the government are giving people the message that they have nothing left to lose. You have to face the fact that things like Waco are going to happen. The real tragedy is that there's never been any accountability. There's not been one person to my knowledge associated with that entire effort who's been fined even a dollar or that's spent even one night in jail. And the worst thing

that ever seems to happen is being put on paid leave which most people would use a different term for that and that's called vacation.

When you ask about the likelihood of people picking up arms to defend their rights in this country, it hasn't happened yet, so maybe its not very likely. But as I pointed out in my book we don't seem surprised that 19 year old boys are told to go and shoot someone because he wears a different kind of hat. Whoever walks across this front sight wearing that kind of hat or helmet or uniform shoot him and there's no other compelling reason for that individual soldier to shoot that man. We don't find it odd that our soldiers accept and obey those orders. Given that we have a large number of people in this country who've experienced that either first hand or because a family member has served in some kind of conflict is it so ludicrous to think that someone would be willing to do the same thing when there's a very immediate and compelling reason - his own rights that are being violated?

One of the reasons that I wrote this book is to help open a dialogue where and when government abuses its power so that some people are held accountable and are punished as they should be, so we won't get to where you're talking about.

Glass: Do you see your book to a certain degree as a warning to those in the government not to abuse their authority and their power?

Ross: Absolutely. Its saying "Easy here, guys." We're headed to a very dangerous place and you don't want to get where you can't turn back. An interesting thing happened that really astonished me a couple of years ago. I was in a cafeteria near where I work where businessmen go for lunch.

Glass: Where was that?

Ross: Some place in Missouri. And two FBI agents who had been sitting in a car two nights before - staking out an organized crime meeting from outside on the street sitting in their car -they'd been shot and killed by someone. And at that time they didn't have any leads. Well this fellow at the table near me who I did not know but who I knew to be a lawyer overheard his table companion relate this story reading the paper "two FBI agents sitting on a stake out in their car got killed last night." This lawyer said without thinking -"serves em right." And I thought - my God how did we get here? When I was a teenager the FBI agent was held generally in high esteem. If you said "My uncle's an FBI agent other people would raise their eyebrows and say "real-

ly?" and want to talk about it.

Where did we get from there to here? To the point where two FBI agents just sitting in their car, murdered in cold blood somehow are seen to have deserved that fate?

Glass: And this fellow knew nothing about the facts other than there were just two FBI agents on a stake out -

Ross: Shot and killed - and he was a lawyer in the St. Louis business district. And I thought this is a terrible thing and how did we get here? And that's part of the story line in my book is how we got here.

Glass: I've always believed that the most powerful weapon a person can have is the power of ideas. A lot of people believe that publications such as *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and *Thomas Paine's Common Sense* served as the intellectual and philosophical impetus for the Civil War and the American Revolution. Do you think that your book, *Unintended Consequences* to any degree could become the rallying cry of people that are fed up and angry about losing their rights?

Ross: Its happening already to some extent. I don't know how great an influence my book will have but I think it is having an influence right now. It has tied together for many people a number of disjointed events and ideas that they always felt but never put into a coherent understanding. And they realize now that they've fallen into that situation where when things happen gradually they don't notice the change nearly as much as if they happen all at once. And one of the things my book does is show where we were and show how we got here and that's been an eye-opener for many readers.

I've gotten a lot of letters and E-mail saying you were describing my upbringing as a boy and I had forgotten exactly the way it was until I re-read this.

Glass: We've seen the steady erosion of our second amendment rights, not to mention a host of other rights over the years. Do you think that there is a reasonable possibility that this erosion can be stopped and reversed by peaceful, legal means?

Ross: First of all I wouldn't entirely agree with your thesis. You didn't say the other thing which is we've gained back some of the rights that we lost. As an example 20 years ago we had many more states where it was absolutely prohibited to carry a gun for self defense outside your home. That has changed. There has been no state in the union that has made its concealed carry laws more restrictive that I know of. There have been dozens that have made their laws more favorable to the citizen.

And that's an example of a trend in the right direction. The state laws in many cases seem to be getting better. Now of course I view licensing as an infringement but it's not as bad an infringement as prohibition. So that's an example of things getting better by the legislative process and legal means, so I see no reason why that can't happen at a federal level.

The other thing to keep in mind is that this gradual erosion has gotten to the point where many people are upset enough and what they're losing is important enough to them that they're willing to spend lots of money. And that's why now we have something that we didn't used to have - we now have very high-powered constitutional scholars and lawyers that are on the side of the gun rights movement and are aggressively defending people against these infringements, and that's a big agent for positive change.

Glass: Do you think that after December when Brady II goes into effect and you have a lot of your good old boy traditional hunters going into buy a Remington rifle or a duck-hunting shotgun and they realize that the FBI has to check them out and they have to pay a fee — do

you think it may open up a few of their eyes and get more of those kinds of people involved in the gun rights movement?

Ross: Yes. And I think that it won't be just the good old boy duck hunters. I think it may well be the millionaire who is buying a new "Perazzi".

Glass: There are those who make the argument that concealed weapons permits are a sell-out and amount to de-facto gun registration. They say that carrying a gun is a right and not a privilege and that you shouldn't need to satisfy anyone or ask anyone's "permission" to carry a gun. What do you think about those kinds of arguments? The notion that nothing short of "Vermont carry" is acceptable?

Ross: Well if you feel that way and if you're in a state such as Missouri that currently has absolute prohibition, then you're free not to support a licensing system and if the licensing system passes, you're free to not get a license and carry without one if that's what you want. I don't understand how you can say that going from a situ-

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ation which we've had in Missouri for over 120 years where it's absolutely prohibited to a system where you can get a license is a step in the wrong direction.

Glass: What about people who resent the fact that they have to ask permission to exercise what is a right and the objection that the state should have the information that they carry a gun - what would you say to people faced with that dilemma of surrendering their privacy and personal information for a permit versus carrying the gun illegally?

Ross: I would urge them to go to work politically and get the law changed the way they think it should be.

Glass: You said before that at the NRA's inception it was an organization dedicated not so much to gun rights, but supporting shooting sports and things of that nature. If a person today wants to get involved with the gun rights movement, would you urge them to join JPFO instead of the NRA or both? What is your advice to someone who wants to get active in the gun rights movement?

Ross: If you're serious about it, I suggest you join every major organization and then join something in your local area and if there isn't one you should help form one.

Glass: If you get elected to the Congress where do you plan on making a stand?

Ross: The main stand I want to make is one that addresses the issue of the proper role of the federal government. We have too many legislators who believe that anything they can get 51 percent of the House and Senate to vote on, they have the authority to do and that is absolutely false. There are too many people in this country who have gotten into the mindset of, "I want the government to be my advocate for the thing I like and I want to use public money to do that."

Your worst nightmare is a political figure who is going to be in a position of power sometime in the future and he's going to have 51 percent of the House and 51 percent of the Senate on his side. If you've gotten the government to champion what you like and steal other people's money to pay for it, you've invited them in and you've given them the authority and now it's going to be used against you. So whenever someone asks me if I am going to vote in favor of school vouchers or going to vote against school vouchers or am I going to do this or am I going to do that, I say that should not ever be addressed by the federal government.

I use education as an example because we know that if you went to any kind of school, the worst student in the class affected the class much more than the best student in the class. So education winds up being unfortunately based on the lowest common denominator. I know that the people in my district do not want to have some federal government program inflicted on them for their kid's education that is based on the absolute worst school district in the entire country.

Glass: So what you're saying is that you're an advocate of strict constitutional guidelines prohibiting or curtailing the power of the federal government.

Ross: Exactly.

Glass: Any parting shots?

Ross: Yes. I believe in the power of the individual. And by that I mean we have within each of us a tremendous capacity for accomplishment. I'm not any better than your readers are. I felt that I had a story that would help a cause that was important to me and I got it written and I got it edited and I got it published and I'm getting it sold and I think it's doing some good.

Don't ever sell yourself short on what you can accomplish. Get involved in something you believe in and push hard and you will be amazed at what you can get done. When I got involved with politics in Missouri, I discovered that if you'll do the work, the legislators will often do exactly what you want. This is after you've established a rapport, obviously. But when you start to do the nuts and bolts type of legislative work for them, you're making it much easier for them to do what you want and you will see your success rate skyrocket. And that's a skill that anyone can possess. Anyone can get something typed up in the right format. But if you'll push for what you believe in and do the work that any one person can do you'll be so far ahead of all of the people who just talk about it.

What we need to remember most of all about the issue of solving this peacefully is that when we lost a bunch of our rights in 1934 and then again in 1968, it was not because we didn't have enough people running around in the woods wearing fatigues. We lost those rights because we didn't have enough people running around our state and federal capitals in three piece suits. We need to remember that that's how we lost our rights, and the best way to get them back is the same way. If we can do that we'll never reach the point where we have to take up arms.



If Government Doesn't Belong in the Bedroom...

What's it Doing in the Dresser Drawer?

MILLIONS OF LAW-ABIDING AMERICANS OWN FIREARMS.

**If you're not a gunowner yourself, chances are someone you trust is:
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But in the last few years, you've been asked to believe some very dangerous things about your fellow Americans, just because they own guns for protection and recreation. You've been told they're "bad," and "different;" that they're not like you, and that they are responsible for all sorts of things from crime to accidents to the insane behavior of a few individuals.

Because you've been told to believe those things, millions of Americans like you have had their rights denied or delayed, with the excuse that you are being "protected" from other Americans just like you.

In the last few years, most of the action has come in the form of government regulation or interpretation of laws. These regulations have been enacted against Americans not in the sunshine of democracy, but in the shadow of bureaucracy. There is little or no recourse for your fellow Americans. Gunowners are denied one of the most basic rights: the right to state their case, not just to legislators, but to other Americans.

A dangerous new front has now been opened against all Americans with the intention of several big city mayors to abandon their duties to their citizens to find reasonable and just solutions to crime. Instead, these mayors prefer to rely on contingency-fee crazed lawyers uninterested in rights, justice or common sense.

Time after time, statistics by independent researchers have shown that American gunowners are not the problem.

They do not break the law when they seek the legal means to own a gun. They are not, and have never been, the problem. The research shows just the opposite: in states where citizens are accorded the right to own and carry a firearm for personal protection, crime rates are lower—much lower—than in places that enact strict control of law-abiding Americans—places like Washington, DC, and Chicago.

Common sense tells you that if crime flourishes, if rapes, assaults, robberies and even murder, are higher in places that deny people just like you the means to self-protection and the protection of their homes and families, then, at the very least, American gunowners are not the problem. It is a dangerous experiment to remove freedoms, one by one, in exchange for the broken promise of safety.

It's always been easier to blame people, especially if you isolate them with labels and name-calling, for problems that are obviously larger, more complicated, and sometimes even insoluble, than it is to work together at the same time we respect each other and our differences. It can't make sense to ignore existing laws, and instead pile on more and more, never bothering to use the laws for the benefit of society.

If you think gun control isn't people control, think again.

The history of gun control—beginning with the denial of firearms rights to newly freed African-Americans in the post-Civil War South, to those aimed at immigrants at the turn of the last century—is a dangerous, deceitful, un-American history of people control. If laws can be enacted, if regulations can be implemented, without review or recourse against Americans just like you, what and who comes next?

Your friends, neighbors, relatives and co-workers who own guns just want what you want: the safe and secure lives that Americans declared their right over 200 years ago; lives that are not judged by others merely because they "seem different;" the renewed promise of a government that works for the people and respects their judgement, and a fair and open hearing in the court of public opinion.

The Bill of Rights guarantees your rights—and trusts the people.

All the rights we enjoy today are dependent on one another. Your rights and liberties, including your privacy and your personal decisions about yourself and family are guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, which includes the Second Amendment.

That's why, for over 25 years, The Second Amendment Foundation has been dedicated to educating and informing all Americans about our precious Second Amendment rights, through books, monographs, periodicals, scholars conferences, grassroots seminars, court cases and public information ads like this.



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The Partisan GUN REVIEW

BY JAN RENO

The FA-91

"America Rolls it's Own HK-91"

It is no secret that some of the finest military rifles in the world have been produced outside of the United States. Belgium has produced the FN FAL, Russia has produced the AK-47, Israel has produced the Galil, and Germany has produced the HK 91. Each of these rifles is outstanding in its own right, filling unique niches and requirements in different militaries at different times. The staggering number of countries that have adopted these weapons for their own armies speaks for itself.

There was a time in this country prior to the Bush administration when semiautomatic versions of these classic battle and assault rifles could be purchased at prices that were never really cheap, but most certainly affordable. Springfield

Armory, Heckler and Koch, Magnum Research, Action Arms, Gun South, Kongs, and a host of other companies brought thousands of such outstanding rifles to these shores. Gun enthusiasts are already referring to this brief period of time, to as the good old days.

Under the guise of fighting the war on drugs, George Bush's drug Czar, William Bennett enacted the first "assault rifle" ban which prohibited the importation of the above mentioned guns and many others. Never bothering to examine the facts, which clearly contradict and undermine Mr. Bennett's justification for ignoring the Second Amendment, NRA life member, George Bush trampled the rights of all Americans by arbitrarily forbidding the importation of a

select list of rifles.

The BATF made absurd, arbitrary rules about what constituted an assault rifle and decided that a rifle could not be imported for civilian ownership if it has more than one of the following features:

- A bayonet lug
- A detachable magazine
- A pistol grip
- A flash suppressor.

In an attempt to get around this exercise in politically correct insanity, the various gun manufacturers made minor cosmetic changes in their products, gave them different names and continued to export them to the U.S. The AK-47 lost its bayonet lug, traded its flash suppressor for a "muzzle break", grew a bridge between its pistol grip and butt stock, making it a one piece thumb-hole stock, and was resurrected from the wasteland of bureaucratic purgatory as the MAK-90. Similarly, the HK 91 became the SR-9 and the SAR-8, the Galil became the Galil "Sporter" and later the Hadar, and the FN FAL was reincarnated as the SAR 4800.

In what quickly became a cat and mouse game between the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms [BATF] and foreign gun manufacturers, firearms were constantly modified so that they would conform to the ever-changing myriad of import regulations.



Century Arms FA-91 (top) and the HK-91 (below). Aside from a few minor differences, the two weapons are virtually indistinguishable from each other.

Growing increasingly impatient and frustrated with the incredible resilience, tenacity and ingenuity of the free market, the Clinton Administration threw the chessboard in the air by banning not only a long list of specific weapons, but included any weapon that might be produced down the road that was "similar" in nature. They of course, would be the ones to determine what met the criteria of "similar". This methodical extraction of freedom's teeth goes on unabated.

As the noose tightens around the necks of gun owners-especially those gun owners who choose to own military and paramilitary firearms-the prices of these guns goes up

astronomically. As the Clinton Administration bans the importation of more and more guns by decree and arm twisting in Congress, the chance of the average working man ever possessing any of these fine European rifles dwindles accordingly.

Laws affecting the domestic manufacture of firearms must be passed by an act of Congress, and therefore cannot happen literally overnight, like the onslaught of executive orders we've seen issued by both the Bush and Clinton Administrations. As the Crime Bill of 1994 effectively put the last nail in the coffin of military rifle imports, a not too surprising phenomenon began to occur-

the domestic production of what heretofore were foreign-made firearms.

The same exact firearms that are banned from importation can be legally assembled in this country, providing that a minimum number of parts are made in the U.S. So you guessed it-manufacturers are now producing the minimum number of parts they have to in order to be legal, and are assembling rifles in the U.S. with mostly imported parts.

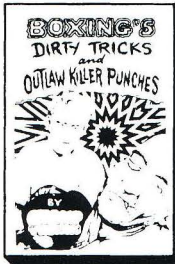
D.S. Arms is doing this with the FN FAL rifle, Hesse Arms is doing this with the FN FAL and AK-47 rifle, (look for reviews of these guns in future issues of *The Partisan*) and

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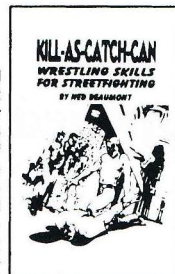
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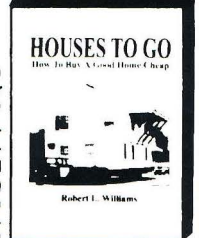
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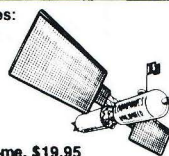
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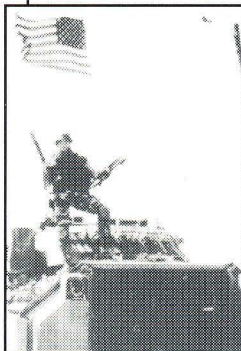
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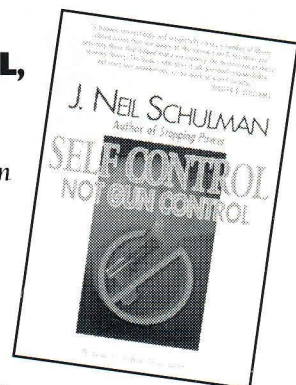
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Century Arms International Inc. out of St. Albans Vt., perhaps the largest importer in the United States of military firearms, is doing it with the H&K 91 or G3 battle rifle.

The HK 91 or G3 in its full auto military configuration, is manufactured by Heckler and Koch in Germany and is also made under license from Heckler and Koch around the world, in countries as diverse as Greece, Portugal, Iran and Pakistan. The G3 has been used with superb results by the Portuguese in their former colonies of Angola and Mozambique, and is currently fielded by scores of guerrilla groups, warlords and armies all over Africa. The G3 was used with great effectiveness by Iran in its war with Iraq, and is still in use with many NATO countries including Germany, Norway, Denmark and Holland.

The roots of the HK 91 go back to the last days of World War II and the design engineers at the Mauserwerke. The Germans realized that their standard infantry rifle, the 8mm bolt action 98k Mauser was basically the same rifle they had fought the first World War with, and despite the fact that the rifle was extremely accurate and reliable, it nevertheless had its share of shortcomings.

The Wehrmacht had pioneered the concept of Blitzkrieg, or the lightning movement of troops with mechanized infantry and armor, that would attack the enemy with overwhelming, concentrated firepower from extremely mobile forces. This type of warfare engaged the enemy at distances much closer than the three of four hundred meters that was common in World War I. Thusly the 98 Mauser bolt action rifle while accurate and reliable was too slow in its operation, and did not have a rate of

fire that was fast enough to overwhelm the enemy in the lightning attack doctrine that had been adopted and used with great success by the Wehrmacht.

On the other hand, the 9mm MP 38 and later MP 40 and MP 41 Submachine guns, commonly referred to as the "Schmeisser", although capable of firing 500 rounds per minute (rpm) were limited to the performance of their pistol cartridge, the 9mm Parabellum. This round, like most handgun cartridges, could only be used against positions up to 100 meters, and even at that distance their effectiveness was only marginal. To suit their style of war, the Germans needed to come up with a rapid firing rifle that could hold many intermediate sized rounds and effectively engage targets beyond 100 meters.

In 1943 Schmeisser introduced the MP-43 which was a reworked MKb42(H). The rifle which had achieved much success on the Russian front, albeit the fact it was issued in relatively low numbers (less than 16,000). This fully automatic weapon fired the 8mm Kurz or 8 x 33 mm intermediate cartridge from 30 round detachable magazines. It used a conventional gas piston to eject the spent shell and load the next round. The weapon much to the chagrin of

the Allies was a great success, but it was heavy, weighing over 11 pounds and it was expensive and time consuming to make. These were two luxuries that Germany could no longer afford.

In 1944-1945 the German arms factory at Orbnord am Neckar was hastily engaged in a project to produce inexpensive, yet reliable automatic small arms for the war effort. To achieve these ends they modified the MP43-44 with a delayed blow-back mechanism which ingeniously used a two piece bolt with a roller locking system that actually had the rollers engage in cuts made in the receiver itself, to provide the necessary delay in opening the bolt.



A weary Wehrmacht soldier with a MP 44 in the last days of World War II.

This blow back mechanism did away with the need of a conventional piston rod or gas tube, used in gas activated mechanisms like most self loading rifles in use at the time and still use today. To further reduce production costs many of the weapon's parts were made of stampings instead of forgings or the time-consuming method of machining parts from blocks of steel.

This weapon was designated as the StG45(M) which was the final descendant of the German MP 43, MP 43/1 and MP 44 series of Sturmgewehrs, and was in fact the world's first true assault rifle. The rifle performed with great reliability making it a much coveted weapon amongst the German infantry. In fact, this weapon in its varying configurations can still be encountered by a variety of movements and armies throughout Africa. Fortunately for the Allies and the rest of the free world, the introduction of the StG45(M) like jet aircraft and rockets were too little too late for the Third Reich.

Of course its hard to keep a good man down, and not one to be side-tracked by losing a world war, former Mauser engineer Ludwig Vorgrimmler went to France where he further developed his roller lock design at the French weapons plant at Mulhouse. Vorgrimmler made his way to Spain in the early fifties to work for the government arms manufacturer Centro de Estudios Tecnicos de Materiales Especiales or CETME. There he linked up with other former German arms engineers as well as Spanish arms designers.

Their efforts produced an excellent rifle that the Spanish government was determined to produce in great numbers. To achieve these ends they

collaborated with the German firm of Heckler & Koch. Heckler & Koch GMBH was established in 1949 by men who were former executive engineers at the Mauserwerke at Oberndorf, Germany. This collaboration between CETME and H&K produced two great rifles. Germany ordered the first 400 G3 rifles in 1956 produced in 7.62 x 51 (.308) and in 1958 Spain went on to produce the CETME which was a very similar rifle that fired a reduced power version of the .308 NATO cartridge.

As previously stated, this superb NATO rifle has been produced both in Germany and under license abroad in great numbers, and with a track record going back almost half a century, it is not a matter of opinion, but rather a well-proven fact that the HK G3 and its semi automatic variant 91 are extremely reliable, accurate, rugged and easy to maintain and repair in the field.

As we take stock of the situation in 1999, looking back at the presidency of Bill Clinton, which will be viewed by history as a something of a cross between Franz Kafka and Hee Haw, and the Orwellian visions of the second millenium, many of us now find ourselves in the market for some hardware that will help us hedge our bets. With the cost of original HK 91s pushing towards \$3,000 and Springfield Armory clones not far behind, most of us have been forced to look elsewhere for our main battle rifle. Until now.

The folks at Century Arms have simply taken an aluminum receiver made by the American firm of Federal Arms in Bloomington, MN and have assembled rifles with genuine HK and HK licensed parts. These rifles designated the FA 91 are

currently available from Century Arms and a number of other wholesalers including but not limited to Southern Ohio Guns, Davidsons and Lew Horton Distributors.

The good folks at Century were kind enough to lend us one of the rifles for test and evaluation and we were quickly off to the range to see what this little baby could do. We also took an HK 91 so we could compare the performance of both rifles.

To begin with, the FA91 is somewhat crude in its overall finish. The parts that were used to make the rifle have a great deal of external wear on them, and to cheaply and easily cover this up they were painted with a dull finish black, crinkle paint which actually matches the finish of the Federal Arms receiver. The internal parts however were in very good shape and the bore was in excellent condition, the rifling very crisp with no pitting or corrosion whatsoever.

The actual receiver made by Federal Arms is machined from a block of aluminum unlike the stamped steel receiver on the HK 91. Consequently it is thicker and unlike the HK which attaches the receiver to the barrel by press fitting it with a special machine, the Federal Arms receiver is attached to the barrel with a pair of parallel steel pins.

Taking full advantage of the milling process, the clever folks at Federal arms machined a weaver base right into the top of the receiver. This handy feature is a distinct advantage over the original HK 91 in that it eliminates the need to purchase a costly H&K mount which typically retails for about \$500. Even the A.R.M.S. mount which is quite good, but still not up to the level of the original H&K mount, will retail

for about \$250. The weaver style mount which is an integral part of the receiver will accept any weaver style rings including see-through mounts, which will enable the shooter to utilize the iron sights in addition to the scope.

The forend of the rifle is the slimline or jungle forend, which like its name implies is a lot slimmer than the standard HK 91 forend, but it does not have the mount on the end that facilitates the use of a bipod. Due to the brilliance of the modular design concept of this weapon, the forend can easily be replaced by simply pushing out a single pin just below the rifle's front sight.

The flash suppressor of the original HK 91 has been replaced with a politically correct "muzzle break" on the FA 91. Functionally there is very little difference between the two.

The magazine that came with the weapon is aluminum instead of steel. The Portuguese were fond of using aluminum magazines with their G3s and the fact that the forend of the rifle was originally green suggests that the parts used to assemble the rifle were from Portuguese weapons, but this is only an educated guess.

With the exception of the receiver and muzzle break, all of the parts on the rifle are original HK 91 parts, and consequently all of these parts are interchangeable with original HK 91, parts and the two weapons function exactly the same way. The FA 91 will take any magazine, folding or collapsible stock, sling, bipod (assuming you switch the forend) bayonet, PSG pistol grip or trigger that the HK 91 will.

Because of the differences of the receivers, the two accessories that the FA 91 will not take are the carry

handle and the ejection port buffer. Neither of these two features are critical, but depending on your weight versus luxury scale, nice to have.

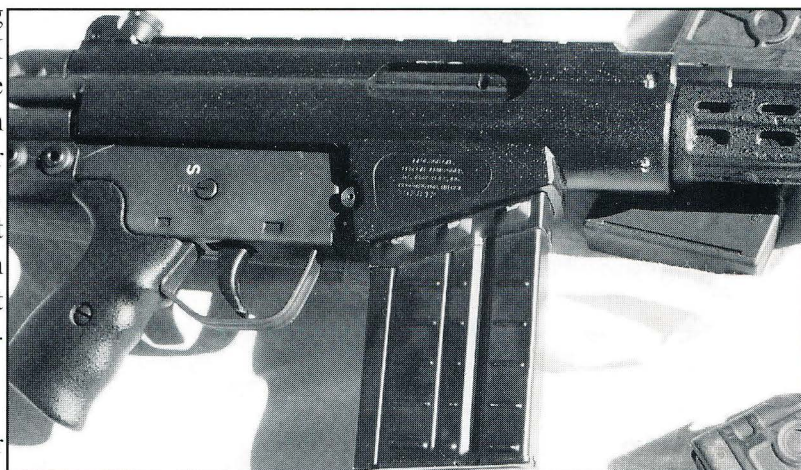
In our exuberance to shoot the weapon we failed to take the weapon down and see if it needed a cleaning which we discovered in retrospect it did. In fact the weapon was about as filthy as any rifle any of our staff had ever seen. At least no one can accuse Century of sending us a ringer.

At any rate, we set up targets at fifty yards and shot the FA 91 along side with an HK 91. The trigger pull was gritty and long, but you knew exactly when the next little bit of pressure on the finger tip would fire the round. I shot a nice tight group with the first five rounds, three of the holes touching each other. I exchanged the rifle with another shooter for his HK 91 and we did it again and again and again at increasing distances.

Admittedly our day at the range was not completely objective and scientific, but even though the trigger pull on the HK 91 was smoother, we both shot tighter groups with the FA 91! After awhile we experienced a couple of extraction failures with the

FA 91 which is the point at which we realized how dirty the gun was. After the best cleaning we could give the rifle in the field, it performed flawlessly. I suspect that had we given the rifle a proper cleaning before our adventure at the range, we would not have had this problem.

We shot both slowly and deliberately and later as the sun was getting low in the sky and we were getting cold we shot the rifle as fast as we could and it performed admirably. The feel and the function of the rifle is virtually identical to that of the HK 91. The reason for this is quite simple—the FA91 essentially is an HK 91. The receivers are slightly different, the FA 91 is a bit more crude and perhaps a bit more beat up, but will deliver the same performance as the



The FA 91 (top) and the HK 91 (bottom). Notice the steel pin at the forward part of the FA 91 receiver as well as the integral weaver base on top of the receiver.

HK 91 at about 1/3 of the price.

Not that I would expect to hear differently, but the folks at Century and Federal Arms told us that sales were extremely strong and the response from the public has been outstanding. If our test model is indicative of what is being shipped, I can see why. The rifle is not terribly pretty or slick in the way it has been put together, but the thing works. For those of us more concerned with getting a reliable weapon than oos and ahhs from the other shooters at the range, the FA 91 is a rifle well worth considering.

For those of you do-it-yourselfers, there is yet another option. Federal Arms is selling their receivers separately. Not too coincidentally, there are a number of G3 parts kits on the market as well. The condition of these parts kits range from trashed with missing parts, less receiver, to brand new in the wrapper complete, less receiver. The prices of these parts kits will vary dramatically ranging anywhere from \$150.to


\$400. But remember you get what you pay for. The price of the receivers goes from about \$450 to \$500.

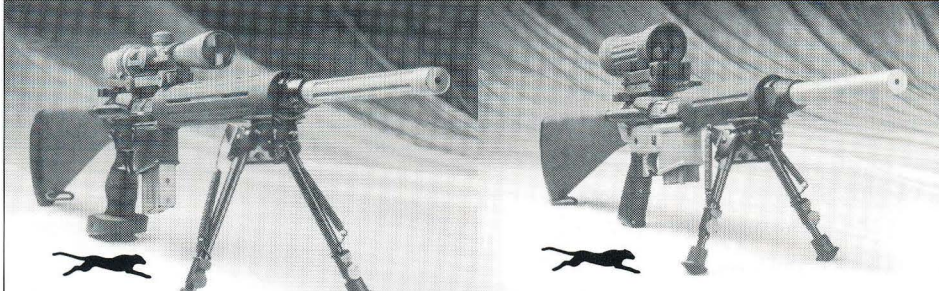
Those home hobbyists keep in mind that the parts kits are made from G3 rifles, not HK 91 rifles and consequently the trigger groups are select fire which means that they are capable of fully automatic fire. Be sure not to assemble rifles with these full auto trigger groups as that would be illegal.

It is only a matter of time before Clinton & Co. realize what is going on and decide to ban the further importation of rifle parts. The FA 91 while not quite as sleek and sexy as its cousin, the HK 91 is nevertheless a functional, reliable and accurate rifle for about 1/3 of the price. This is money you could spend on a good scope, a custom trigger and a whole lot of ammo. No, the rifle is still not cheap but a lot cheaper than the original and still a helluva rifle.

Mel Tappan, the guru and fountain-

head of the survivalist movement said in his classic work, *Survival Guns* (published by Desert Publications), "The need for a good survival rifle is probably the most universally recognized firearms requirements among those who will live outside the cities; and for most of us, the rifle will be virtually an indispensable tool in our planning for self sufficiency." I agree with Mel Tappan wholeheartedly. I would also like to add that the rifle is also the primary weapon and indispensable tool for fighting tyranny.

It is unlikely that gun laws will become more lax or gun prices will go down anytime in the near future. When I look at the FA 91 next to the HK 91 I am reminded of the last line of one of my favorite movies. Edmond O'Brien looks at Robert Ryan in the last scene of "*The Wild Bunch*" and he says with a mischievous grin, "It ain't like the good old days. But it'll do." 

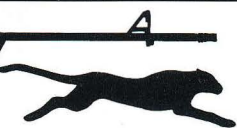


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Partisan Politics



BY BOB GLASS

The Demise of Justice

The moral bankruptcy of the Democratic Party
and the law of Unintended Consequences.

Last year I spent a day in traffic court in the People's Republic of Boulder, Colorado. I was given a \$50 ticket for failing to stop at stop sign. What I had done was come to a "rolling stop" at about 3 or 4 miles per hour and was ambushed at night by a patrol car hidden in a driveway with its lights off.

The judge said that because I was in my 40's and never had a moving violation prior to this, he would suspend the fine, wave any points on my license and would not inform my insurance company. I was amazed to hear how fair he was until he told me that I would however have to pay \$75 in "court costs."

I went back and forth to the DA trying to persuade them that I had not violated the spirit of the law, nor had I created a dangerous situation. They were unimpressed and said they would give me a trial date if I wanted to plead not guilty, but with a judge and not a jury. By the time I went back to the judge I was the last person in the courtroom, and only the judge, myself and the bailiff were present.

I asked the judge if I could speak candidly, off the record and without incrimination. He nodded and I told him that what he was run-

ning was nothing more than a blackmail scheme. I said that if they were truly interested in public safety, the cop would have been visible in front on the stop sign making sure that people really stopped and preventing accidents as opposed to the cop hiding in ambush waiting to catch someone. I said that this was nothing more than a revenue raising scam, a cat and mouse game designed to shake down and squeeze the honest, law-abiding citizen so they can get more money, the kicker being that if you throw in another \$25 they won't narc you out to your insurance company. In short, extortion. I told him I resented it, that it was wrong and indefensible.

I figured he would give me some speil about how it was necessary and there were factors involved that I didn't understand and I was just looking at the system from a jaded and biased perspective etc, etc. To my shock and disbelief he looked at me, nodded his head and said, "Yea, you're right." Then he stuck out his hand and said "That'll be \$75".

The point being is that the judge didn't even bother to maintain the pretense that there was anything going on in his courtroom that

remotely resembled justice. It was a shakedown plain and simple, and he made no bones about it. The corruption of the system is thoroughly complete, having filtered its way down from the halls of the United States Senate to the lowliest traffic court in small town, U.S.A. It is so blatantly obvious and so clearly indefensible that they no longer even pretend that it is not the case. It simply is not worth going through the motions of justification. They just hold out their hand and say, "Show me the money."

So it should not be too surprising that the Democratic Party has also abandoned all pretense about holding the moral high ground. The acquittal of President Clinton by the United States Senate removes the last vestige of illusion that there is equal justice under the law in America.

I would be a liar if I said that I wasn't looking forward to the spectacle of Bill and Hillary Clinton with luggage, Chelsea and Socks the cat, in tow leaving Washington with the singularly unique distinction of being the first president in the history of the republic to be forcibly removed from office. With carpet fibers still clenched in her fists and red hand prints from the Secret

Servicemen still fresh on her arms she would be loading as much stolen White House silverware and towels in the trunk of her car, cursing her husband all the way. Yes, I would be a liar if I said that I wouldn't give two weeks salary to see that.

The fact of the matter is-if we can put our fantasies and emotions aside for a moment-that President Clinton getting away with committing multiple felonies in the oval office is a good thing. Now before you have an aneurysm and a massive coronary or cancel your subscription to *The Partisan* let me explain.

To begin with, William Jefferson Clinton is guilty of a multitude of heinous high crimes and misdemeanors, including but not limited to money laundering, bank fraud, perjury, embezzlement, abuse of power, rape, treason and quite possibly murder. Ken Starr was unable to charge him with any of the really serious crimes because those who could testify against him woke up dead and others were bribed or coerced into silence.

The charges that Ken Starr eventually brought against President Clinton pale by comparison to the crimes he has committed, but these charges nonetheless are quite serious and the evidence that Starr and his team was able to produce was overwhelming by any standards.

There is no question that President Clinton lied to the American people about the nature of his relationship with Monica Lewinsky just as he lied about the same thing under oath in his deposition in the Paula Jones lawsuit. It is a fact that he knowingly had Monica Lewinsky submit a false affidavit in the same case and knowingly had his attorney Bob Bennett submit a false and perjurious affidavit as well.

President Clinton also lied to his entire cabinet knowing full well that they would all repeat this lie

with self-righteous zeal to the press and some of them would be subpoenaed and would repeat the same lie under oath to a federal grand jury.

There is overwhelming evidence to suggest that President Clinton obstructed justice by pressuring his secretary Betty Currie to lie under oath to a federal grand jury about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. There is overwhelming evidence to suggest that President Clinton further obstructed justice by getting his friend Vernon Jordan to buy Monica Lewinsky's silence with a cushy do-nothing job at the Pentagon.

Bill Clinton has courted the votes of women and feminists in particular throughout his entire political career by championing such liberal causes as cracking down on deadbeat divorced husbands and vigorously prosecuting cases of sexual harassment in the workplace. By giving false testimony under oath in the Paula Jones civil suit and allowing his attorney to do the same, he denied Paula Jones her civil rights and equal protection under the law.

What separates a civilized society from the hordes of looters and pillagers is a code of conduct and a system of objective justice. A court of law is at least in theory a place where people with conflicting viewpoints and interests can state their case and in a fair and objective manner get a ruling by an impartial judge or jury based on the facts and supporting evidence thereof. In short, the judicial system is a structure and process for getting to the truth.

Therefore it is of paramount importance that people testifying in a court of law, either civil or criminal, tell the truth. Our founding fathers realized that discovering the truth in a court of law and the judicial system which oversees that courtroom are the very pillars upon which rests our entire society, our ethics, our values,

our culture, our way of life. They understood quite clearly just how important this was and that is why they included the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution which prevents a man or woman from being forced to give damaging testimony or self incrimination. A person may legally and without persecution refuse to answer any question asked of them without having to lie.

Telling the truth in a court of law is so important, so serious, even sacred if you will that each person puts their hand on the bible and swears to tell the truth. False testimony subverts the very judicial system and prevents the judge or jury from reaching a just verdict. That is why lying under oath is a very serious crime and it has a special name. It is called perjury. Perjury is a criminal action, and scores of people are now sitting in jail across the United States because they committed perjury in both criminal and civil cases.

Clinton apologists and spin doctors like Alan Dershowitz will try to cloud the issue of perjury by claiming that only certain lies under oath constitute perjury, specifically only those lies that are directly relevant to important facts of the case. Clinton denied having exposed himself to Paula Jones, yet paid her a settlement of \$850,000 out of court. Clinton also lied about having sex with his White House intern, Monica Lewinsky. A point of questioning that Federal Judge Susan Webber Wright ruled as relevant to the case.

Unlike Professor Dershowitz, I was not privy to an Ivy League law school education, but I don't think you need to be a graduate of the Harvard Law School to see how directly and obviously relevant Clinton's lies were to the case despite the best efforts of Dershowitz and others to obfuscate the issue.

President Clinton was specifically asked about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. He lied.

His attorney, Bob Bennett, based on information provided by his client (Clinton), also lied. Bennett later submitted papers to the court admitting that his client (Clinton) lied and under the law he was required to report this in order to prevent himself from being disbarred.

Monica Lewinsky was also asked to give a deposition in the Jones case regarding the nature of her relationship with the president. She lied under oath. Clinton knew she lied under oath. When asked about the veracity of her testimony Clinton lied again under oath. It is reasonable to assume and there is significant circumstantial evidence to indicate that Clinton coached and encouraged her false testimony. That is called suborning perjury.

To deny Paula Jones' attorneys from getting physical evidence about the true nature of Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky, he had his secretary, Betty Currie retrieve the myriad of gifts he had given her (Lewinsky) over the course of their relationship and then coached Betty Currie about her testimony. This is called obstruction of justice and jury tampering.

These facts are not contested. Even the most contorted Clinton apologists admit that Clinton had an adulterous, sexual relationship with a 21 year old White House intern, Monica Lewinsky. They admit that he lied to the country about it, lied to his wife and family about it, lied to his cabinet about it and did everything in his power to cover it up. They admit that he lied under oath about it in both the Paula Jones civil suit and in the videotape deposition he gave for the grand jury.

They admit that he is guilty of gross immoral behavior and poor judgement. They admit that he abused his position of authority and lied to the American people about it. They admit that he failed miserably as a role model for the nation's

young people and as the nation's chief law enforcement officer and commander and chief of its armed forces. They further admit that he lied under oath about it and are at least willing to admit the appearance that he encouraged others to lie on his behalf or in some cases remain silent. Many Democratic leaders and Congressmen admit that Clinton committed multiple felonies and have no philosophical objections (knowing full well it will never happen) to Clinton's indictment, arrest and conviction in a criminal court after he leaves office.

The talking points that the White House has instructed its apologist Democratic apparatchniks in Congress and the media to follow are that despite the moral and legal transgressions committed by the president, his actions still do not rise to the levels of high crimes and misdemeanors as is defined in the Constitution as impeachable offenses. Besides which the economy is doing very well, the yuppies are all making killings on Wall Street, the real estate speculators are making fortunes turning ranches and farm land into match stick condo developments, the polls say everyone loves him, so give the guy a break. Of course the president did get impeached, but they still towed the party line in the Senate arguing that this still does not warrant the removal of a sitting president from office. I wonder what criteria they would need to remove a kneeling intern? But that is a story for another day.

The extraordinary thing that the media has completely ignored is that even if you accept this convoluted, illogical, borderline absurd argument about his actions not rising to the level of an impeachable offense, certainly they cast serious doubt on the man's character, his credibility, his judgement and his moral stature. As President of the United States and

arguably the leader of the free world (their term, not mine), what he did sharply brings into question the man's ability and worthiness to lead. Thusly even if what he did doesn't rise to the legal definition of an impeachable or removable offense, it certainly makes his moral character and thusly his moral leadership suspect.

Which of course begets the question of why he doesn't resign. We know why he won't resign; the man is an ego maniac, morally and philosophically bankrupt, with no goals, ideals, principles or agenda beyond the acquisition and maintenance of his own power. Plus the fact that he could never get Hillary's permission.

What the Clinton spin doctors so brilliantly succeeded in doing these last 12 months was turning the real issues of the case, which were Clinton's debase moral and criminal actions, into a civil liberty issue of privacy in the bedroom. They were able to turn the tables by attacking their accuser. They made their case that Kenneth Starr was the bad guy poking his nose into the private sex life of the President and the average person would be the next victim of this right wing fundamentalist puritanical vendetta unless he (Starr) could be stopped. The White House spin cycle was able to portray Clinton as the victim of this right wing "witch hunt" which would endanger everyone's privacy if in the end Clinton went down.

The fantastic irony is that Bill Clinton is a man who pushed for censorship on the Internet, tried to deny Americans their Fourth Amendment rights to be safe in their homes against unreasonable searches and seizure in public housing projects in Chicago, supported the "antiterrorist act" which denies due process and habeus corpus as well as privacy rights to all Americans and supported mandatory public service

for America's youth.

But that still doesn't let the Democrats off the hook in terms of their refusal to ask him to resign. Which brings us to the heart of the matter and the BIG MISTAKE they made by giving him a pass on Monicagate.

In the past when we look at the myriad of scandals, corruption, sleaze, lies deception and general betrayal we've experienced from our elected officials, we usually demand some form of justice when the scoundrels get caught red handed and the press decides to actually report the story. The swarm of rats, vultures and maggots that comprise our government are usually content to throw one of their own to the wolves to perpetuate the illusion that they live and play by the same rules as we do. After all, its just good political sense. Make an example of one of your own every few years and that takes the heat off everyone else so that they can go back to their business-as-usual feasting on the public spoils and from their special interest coffers.

When Democrat Dan Rostenkowski got caught sealing postage stamps (amongst other things) his colleagues axed him faster than a lumberjack at a country fair. They turned away like they had no idea what he was up to and feigned shock and disbelief when confronted with the evidence. This was also the case with Democratic New York Congressman Mario Biaggi, who was convicted of accepting bribes, as was the case of Republican Spiro Agnew, who pled no contest to charges of accepting bribes when he was governor of Maryland.

The most notable example is of course that of Republican Richard Nixon, who was guilty of obstructing justice in connection with covering up the Watergate Hotel break in. He climbed on to the presidential heli-

copter, gave his last double V "I'm not a crook" farewell salute and faded into the pages of history.

We see the facade of that living, breathing, omniscient entity we call justice prevail once again, and we can now go back to watching our Super Bowl games and Seinfeld reruns with complete peace of mind that the system has once again triumphed.

I must admit that when it became clear that Clinton lied about his affair with Monica Lewinsky and Ken Starr could prove it with the now famous blue dress I thought Clinton was finished. His legendary political ability to come back not withstanding, I could not imagine that the Democrats could and would still defend a man so obviously guilty of indefensible conduct both in terms of the initial act and subsequent lying. Even they must realize on some level that it is now time to throw Clinton to the wolves in order to preserve the illusion and myth that they are not above the law and they play by the same rules we do.

After all, I thought, if Clinton can get away with sexual harassment, perjury, suborning perjury, obstruction of justice and general moral depravity, what incentive do any of the rest of us have to obey the law? Why should we pay our taxes, obey the speed limits, report to our draft boards or comply with any of the other myriad of rules and regulations that the commissars impose on us? Clearly if I can see that, they can too. Certainly they cannot be that arrogant and deluded to think that the career of one of their own is worth the price of ruining their charade of justice?

Certainly they will throw Bill Clinton to the wolves before they are forced to admit by such a blatant display of hypocrisy and contempt for the law that they hold themselves to different rules and standards than the rest of us.

I was wrong.

But in their unbridled arrogance and shortsightedness they made a fatal mistake that will assuredly come back to haunt them. Peasants don't like to see things like that. That is why during elections we see politicians eating hot dogs and pizza like the rest of us slobs. We even see them take off their \$500 suit jackets and put a shovel two inches into the dirt to break the ground in some construction project that has been awarded to the boys who financed their campaign.

We all know its bullshit, but there is something strangely reassuring about seeing them go through the motions and at least making the pretense that we are all on the same playing field. By acquitting President Clinton the Democrats have made a mockery of the judicial system and they have finally unmasked the sham they have been perpetrating for years and that is that there is one system of justice in this country. There is not.

There are the rules they play by and there are the rules they demand that we play by. By letting Clinton remain as the nation's chief executive, they have tipped their hand as to just how thorough and pervasive the corruption exists within the government and especially so within the ranks of the Democratic Party.

The rhetoric of the Democratic Party always was about the plight of the common folk, the working man, the single mom trying to support a family, the minority American trying to better his or her life. In recent years the Democratic Party has championed the causes of equality for both sexes. Equal pay for equal work, the right to have an abortion and an end to discrimination and especially sexual harassment in the work place.

Now we have a situation where a white male - quite literally

the most powerful man in the world-takes advantage of his situation by having a sexual affair with his 21 year old intern, Monica Lewinsky. Then he commits perjury about it in a case where another young woman,

Paula Jones, has accused him of sexual harassment when he was Governor of Arkansas, and she was a state employee at the time.

He denies Paula Jones her civil rights and subverts the judicial

process and the Constitution of the United States - a document he has sworn to uphold, protect and defend so help him God-by lying under oath. He lies to his family and his entire cabinet and gets them to go out and lie for him as well. Hillary takes it a step further by ranting and raving about how the "vast right wing conspiracy" (her words, not mine) is out to get him and will stop at nothing - not even fabricating these lies (which of course all turned out to be true), to bring down her poor, crusading champion of justice husband.

Now in retrospect we find that Bill Clinton paid Paula Jones \$850,000 as part of their out of court settlement. A fairly sizeable chunk of change to pay someone who was lying, don't you think? If Paula Jones' charges were baseless, why shell out close to a million dollars to get her to shut up? The answer is simple - Paula Jones was telling the truth. Bill Clinton was lying.

Then there is Clinton's main hatchet man, James Carville, who is the epitome of sleaze, and hypocrisy, the absolute embodiment of everything that is wrong with this country's political process. He has the audacity to call Ms. Jones "Trailer park white trash." Not one Democrat said a word about the malicious character assassination used by the White House.

It didn't stop there. Carville and his pack of attack dogs were unleashed against Linda Tripp, slandering her in the cruelest, most vicious ways in a futile attempt to destroy her credibility about what she had to say about Monica Lewinsky's relationship with the president. In retrospect we find out that Linda Tripp was telling the truth. Bill Clinton was lying. Not one of the president's hatchet men has apologized. Not one Democrat has condemned the actions of this president. Not one Democrat has openly called for the president's resignation.



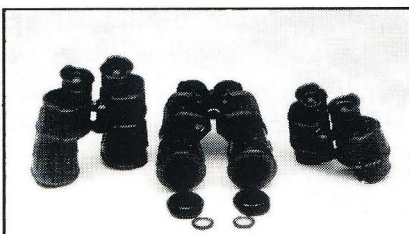
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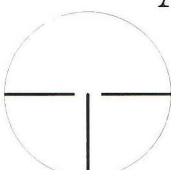
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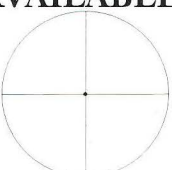
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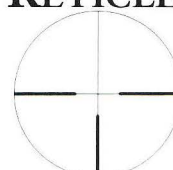
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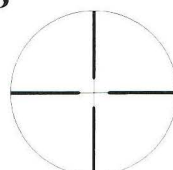
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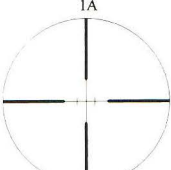
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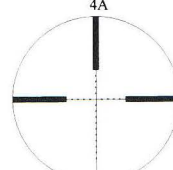
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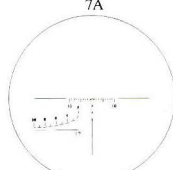
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THE PARTISAN

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We hear the same stories from Dolly Kyle Browning, Jennifer Flowers and Kathleen Willey about how they were physically threatened by Clinton's thugs to keep their mouths shut about the true nature of their relationships with Bill Clinton. Now, after NBC spiked the story, deliberately keeping this crucial information from the American people during the so-called impeachment trial, we hear about the accusations of rape from Juanita Broaddrick. The President and his spin machine are calling all of these women liars, just as he called Paula Jones, Linda Tripp and Monica Lewinsky liars. Not one Democrat or even one feminist has come to their aid. They are all seemingly content to watch this man use all of his power as President of the United States of America to threaten, cajole, intimidate and slander these women who want nothing more than the truth to be heard.

The degree of arrogance is rooted so deep amongst the aristocracy of Democratic politicians that they cannot see beyond their noses at the smoldering anger and revulsion amongst those Americans who have not been charmed and hypnotized by his slickness. James Carville has threatened to go to the "Wahhh room" (sic) and attack those right wing Republicans who dared to hold his precious Bill Clinton accountable for his actions. As part of his campaign of intimidation he made ambiguous threats about the dire consequences that he and his ilk would make the Republicans suffer if they dared pursue impeachment. After the impeachment vote he said with his rattlesnake eyes bulging out of their sockets and the veins pulsating from his neck that, "We gonna make 'em pay! We gonna make 'em pay deahhly!!!" (sic)

The irony here is that while Carville rants and raves about the dire consequences of holding one

man accountable for his actions he is completely oblivious to the real consequences of his culpability in trashing the Constitution and rubbing it in the faces of those who hold it dear, of those who gave their blood for it, of those who saw their friends, their sons and brothers die for it.

When Jim Carville goes to his War room, he loosens his tie, sips some Southern Comfort and instructs his staff and their snitches to dig up dirt on their enemies. The people they use to achieve their ends are quite literally the scum of the earth, people like *Hustler Magazine* publisher Larry Flint. Carville and his ilk have long since abandoned legitimate political discourse and debate of the issues and have chosen the low road of character assassination, blackmail, intimidation and lies to fight their political battles.

What Carville and the like don't realize is that what they do for kicks, amusement, ego gratification and six figure book contracts - for sport if you will - poisons the political debate, results in the loss of our freedom, the destruction of our culture, our values and our way of life. We're too busy earning a living and trying to be good parents and neighbors to get involved with the ugly business of slander, intimidation and character assassination which are the tools of their trade.

When the day comes that we decide that we've had enough and go to our war room, it won't be to get on the phone with Larry Flint.

When I travel around the country at trade shows, give talks or just meet like-minded people, I am always fascinated by what point, what singular event occurred in each person's life that made them wake up and decide to accept the responsibility of thinking. It is extraordinary and most certainly the subject of a future Partisan article to examine just what buttons had to be pushed to shake people out of their complacen-

cy. In recent years swells of people have joined what for want of a better term we shall call the "Patriot" movement as a direct result of government abuses of power at Ruby Ridge, Idaho and Waco, Texas.

There is no question in my mind that the Democratic Party's decision to acquit President Clinton in the face of overwhelming evidence will radicalize a significant number of Americans. Unlike Ruby Ridge and Waco, no one died as a result of President Clinton's actions in this particular case (we will discuss the deaths of Ron Brown, Vince Foster, James MacDougal and others in future issues of *The Partisan*). The Democratic strategists - if that is not in itself an oxymoron - therefore decided that they could get away with keeping him in office, that no one could get that worked up over sex.

People that ride around in limousines and enjoy three martini lunches around the D.C. beltway can see the numbers of the pollsters but they do not have their fingers on the pulse of the country. Numbers only tell a small part of the story. Sure, the numbers are good for Clinton now, the yuppie baby boomers who smoked dope in school and have now cut their hair and don't have a fraction of the ethics that their parents had in business will support their boy as long as their mutual funds and their 401Ks are healthy.

They look at the 35 percent of the people who register an unfavorable rating towards the president and shrug their shoulders thinking that is acceptable. What the numbers alone don't tell them is that these people are not just mildly unimpressed with Clinton but are teetering on the edge of revolution. We are not talking about 18 and 20 year old college students living on mommy and daddy's money getting degrees in sociology and women's studies and getting laid at the same time. We

are not talking about kids smoking dope and cutting classes with their Marxist professors to protest the Vietnam War or dolphins getting caught in tuna nets.

These are middle-aged people who have served in the military and raised families, businessmen, doctors, nurses, policemen, engineers, farmers, ranchers, truck drivers and people from all walks of life. These are people who are community leaders, church goers, Boy Scout troop leaders, people who own land, property and businesses. These men and women are the very backbone of our country. These are people who are not going through spiritual growth or cosmic awareness, these are the people who make America work. These are the people outraged and getting more outraged with every passing day as they witness the spectacle of the Democratic Party quite literally changing the

rules of the game as they go along.

Throwing Bill Clinton to the wolves would have been a very small price to pay - quite the bargain in fact that would have enabled them to continue feasting on their looted wealth and power for many years to come. But like most thieves and con men, their outlook is never geared for the long-term. The gratification of immediate desires without regards to the long term consequences of their actions is the trademark of the looter and thief.

A Democratic Congressman said on the Fox Network "Hannity & Colmes" show that "it is naive and unrealistic to expect the people we elect to office not to cheat on their wives and tell their constituents (us) the truth." WOW! What an incredible confession as to the state of this man's morality and integrity and what an indictment that statement is of the Democratic Party.

If what he says is true - and maybe he's right - I can't think of a better reason to start a revolution. He's our boy, we're living high off the hog under him and we're not about to do anything about it. Sure the system is corrupt and unjust, but what else is new? What is all the fuss about?, they ask. And maybe they really don't know. Maybe corruption has become such a pervasive part of their life and the lives of those they associate with for so long that they really don't understand why it is a big deal. Just like the judge in the Boulder courtroom who couldn't understand why I was so upset. Everyone else just sends in the \$50 and forgets about it, he reasoned. After all, it's just \$50. Hey after all, it's just about sex.

Unprincipled people do not understand where principled people are coming from. People that have values and morals and choose to live



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by them by sacrificing immediate short-term gains for the future and the bigger picture scare them. They figure as long as they put on their Sunday best and the talk the talk about how we are all imperfect creatures and should be forgiven they can do as they please with impunity and without consequence.

They are wrong.

There are those who understand the concept that actions have consequences. There are those of us who make an effort to do the right thing every day of our lives and we frighten them because we are men and women who cannot be bought, cannot be conned, cannot be intimidated, and worse yet cannot be controlled. This frightens them - and rightfully so.

Though we were denied the spectacle of seeing the Clintons sent packing back to Arkansas as we were denied justice, we were given a

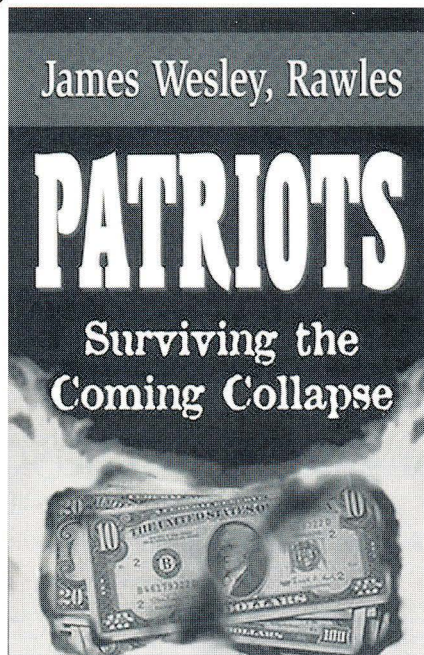
bright and shining light by which to see the true nature and soul of the Democratic Party. By saving the skin of one of their own, they may have avoided the shame and disgrace of watching the Clinton presidency and legacy go down in flames, but in doing so they have merely fanned some very different flames-the flames of liberty. The same flames that shoot forth from the torch of the proud lady-the silent sentinel of freedom that stands guard over New York Harbor.

As the Clintons and their supporters toasted champagne glasses the night of the Senate's acquittal they were not concerned with what they had to do or what values they had to betray to get there. The sweet taste of the champagne however will not be sweet enough to mask the rancid bitterness of their corruption and moral depravity.

While they gloat and laugh

about how they got away with their latest crime in a long criminal career, the rest of us can only watch and listen and wait our turn. We can take some solace in knowing that with each act of betrayal against the Constitution and all that is fair and decent, more and more people will be shaken out of their complacency and join our ranks. Until one day-the day of reckoning when the tyrants and their enforcers will be held accountable for their actions.

When that day comes we may very well look back to the sham trial of the 20th century that ended in the acquittal of President Clinton and with a bittersweet gleam in our eye we may think back to that day knowing that for the tyrants and commissars who sought to enslave us, it was the beginning of the end.



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by Dick Hoffman
Col. U.S. Army Ret.

"EARN THIS"

By now most of you have seen the movie "Saving Private Ryan." In a battlefield cemetery each cross marks an individual's crucifixion. Someone usually very young has died for someone else's sins. The movie "Saving Private Ryan" begins and ends in the military cemetery above Omaha Beach. By sundown of D-day 40K Americans had landed on that beach. One in 19 had become a casualty. The military leadership purposely chose troops with no combat experience for the bulk of the assault force. They reasoned that an experienced infantryman was a terrified infantryman. The odds of dying in the early waves was so great that an experienced infantryman might be paralyzed with well founded despair. But young and idealistic soldiers might move unhesitatingly forward into the lottery of death.

Speilburg made "Saving Private Ryan" as a tribute to D-day veterans. He wanted to strip the glory from war and show the 90's generation what it was really like. The reviews have praised the first 30 minutes of the film and the special effects that graphically show the blood and horror of the D-day landing. Unfortunately, American audiences have become jaded connoisseurs of special effects gore. In the hands of the entertainment industry, violence is just another pandering trick. But Speilburg wasn't pandering.

The story of the Normandy invasion is a story of unbelievable slaughter. The young men who lived through those first waves are old men now. Many have asked themselves, everyday for more than 50 years why had they survived. As I have found out from my own experiences in Vietnam, it is an unanswerable question. The air was full of buzzing death. When the ramps were opened on many of the landing craft, all the men aboard were riddled with machine gun bullets before they could

step into the water. Beyond this cauldron of cordite and carnage, half a world away lay an America united in purpose like no person under 60 has ever seen. The entire starting lineup of the 1941 Yankees was in uniform. Almost every family could hang a service flag in the window, with a star embroiled on it for each relative in uniform.

In the early hours of D-day, with the outcome still in the balance, the nation prayed. Families saved fat and flattened cans and grew victory gardens. Not all went to Omaha Beach or Saipan, or Anzio or Iwo Jima. Only an anointed few did that. The men of WWII are beginning to leave us. In my family 5 have gone and one is left. We have lost an uncle who was at Midway, the cousin who brought the German helmet back from N. Africa.

These men left us with a single request. You can hear that request in "Saving Private Ryan." In the film a squad of rangers is sent behind enemy lines to save a man whose three brothers have been killed in battle. Higher headquarters wants him shipped home to spare his mother the agony of having all her sons killed in combat. So eight rangers risk their lives for one man and when one of the rangers is mortally wounded, he asks Pvt. Ryan to bend over so he can whisper to him "Earn this." And that is the request of all young men who have died in all the wars from Normandy to the Chosin Reservoir to Con Thien to the Gulf. "Earn this!"

When the movie ended, the theater was silent except for scattered muffled sobs. But the tears that scalded my eyes were not for the men who had died on the screen and in truth. Or for the men like me who had lived and grown old and were baffled about why they had been spared. And who now walked out into the world of Howard Stern and Jerry Springer and "South Park". Into the world of front page coverage of Monica Lewinski and President Clinton. "Earn this" was still ringing in my ears. And the tears in my eyes were tears of betrayal."



The Partisan **FALL IN**

by Bob Glass

Raining on Their Parade

Dousing Hillary's Health Care Campaign. Notes on spoiling the party.

One of the tedious and unfair things about living in a democracy for the commissars and politicians that like to run our lives is that they must persuade 51 percent of the sheep that make up the electorate to go along with their latest scheme for stealing our wealth and freedom under the guise of helping us. As larger percentages of the population work either directly or indirectly for the government, it becomes increasingly easier for them to sell their socialist ideas to the public.

The media, whose collective IQ is only less impressive than their attention span, are all too willing to go along with any boondoggle that appears on the surface to help the little guy at the expense of the corporations. Usually this takes on the form of stealing from the rich to give to the poor, creating jobs for those too lazy or incompetent to work, forcing employers and those in the private sector to fork over unearned benefits to their employees, creating different standards and quotas for different ethnic groups and sexes, or having the government control and regulate what heretofore had been left to the domain of the free market.

In the early days of the Clinton administration, even before Hillary became Hillary Rodham, the first lady embraced the cause of establishing socialized medicine in the United States. In keeping with the strict doctrines of political correctness which dictate that you never accurately or precisely define or identify anything, she used such glowing terms as "just" health care, "fair" health care, "affordable" health care, etc. The one word which accurately summed up Hillary's bitter pill that was so carefully omitted from any public discussion was "coercive" health care.

Hoping to prey upon the soaring costs of medical treatment felt by most Americans, Hillary's crusade for national health care was off and running. Never bothering to identify the root causes of medicine's spiraling costs such as Medicare and Medicaid fraud, the FDA's insanely expensive testing criteria for marketing new drugs and the government forcing the private sector to provide health care to the indigent, she was out to punish what was left of free market medicine just the same.

Hillary wasted no time in mapping out her first campaign to change the political and social landscape of

America. The rich and greedy doctors, the pharmaceutical corporations, the huge hospitals and the insurance companies all made ripe and juicy targets for the crusading first lady out to slay the two-headed capitalist dragon of insensitivity and greed.

Here was a young first lady fresh out of the starting gate taking on one of America's sacred cows, the medical profession with the self-righteous zeal of Joan of Arc. This was something the media could really sink their teeth into and rally behind. And had not a few unexpected things occurred along the way we might well be reporting to our community commissar instead of our family physician to get a vaccination or our Prozac prescription (a virtual necessity during the Clinton years).

But what did happen along the way is as inspirational as it is interesting. People began to speak up and speak out on their own. Without the benefit of organized lobbies, political parties and special interest groups, individuals started to voice their opposition to a plan that was not only unconstitutional but so thoroughly ill-conceived and poorly planned that in the final analysis even its ardent defenders were unable to sell their snake oil legislation to the Congress.

Don't misunderstand me. Hillary's health care bill was fervently opposed by the AMA (American Medical Association), the Republican Party and the overwhelming majority of physicians, but in the final analysis it was the uproar from the common man that got the attention of the media and finally drove the stake into the heart of Hillary's Draculan dogma of medicine. I at least like to think that I did my small part to help put a torpedo broadside into the hull of her ship, the USS Fascist, as I shall explain shortly.

What is important to keep in mind here is that the bad guys must sell their schemes to the press and the public before they can enact them. In essence they must first obtain the sanction of their victims before they can go to work. They must leave their ivory towered villas and chauffeured limousines and give their bodyguards ulcers by pressing the flesh with us commoners-and herein lies our opportunity to confront them or at least rain on their parade.

This goes back to Guerilla Theater 101 and an

invaluable lesson we can learn from the American left and the 1960s. Jerry Rubin and Abbie Hoffman, both now deceased, were the patron saints of political mayhem and media manipulation. They were two of the Chicago Seven arrested and tried for inciting riots at the infamous 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago. They were also founding members of the Youth International Party - the Yippies. These fellows may not have been high on your Christmas lists, but when it came to rattling the cages of established order and turning things upside down they literally wrote the book (*Steal This Book* by Abbie Hoffman and *Do It* by Jerry Rubin.). The antics they pulled at their trial in Judge Julius Hoffman's court (no relation to Abbie) made the Marx Brothers look amateurish.

Defendant Abbie Hoffman appeared in court one day wearing an American flag. The outraged judge demanded that the bailiff remove this garment from him. When he did so the court was shocked to see that Hoffman wore black judge's robes underneath. He succeeded in making a complete mockery of the judge and the trial itself. In the end all of the defendants were found not guilty.

No shots were fired. No bombs went off. No one was kidnapped, beaten up or threatened. But an important political victory was won through guile, imagination and courage. What Hoffman and Rubin succeeded in doing was brilliant in its simplicity; they put the opposition in a no-win position. The more the judge and the authorities cracked down on them for their courtroom antics, the more sympathetic the jury became to their cause. Black Panther leader Bobby Seale was literally gagged and chained to his chair in the courtroom. As the judge and prosecution became increasingly frustrated and angry, they became easy pickings for the court jesters who were given the absolute perfect stage for their tomfoolery-the courtroom.

As the machinery of government continues to grind away at our freedoms and the Constitution we will find ourselves increasingly in the position of facing this enormous, faceless monstrosity intent upon squashing us like a bug. We cannot win at the present time by standing toe to toe with it and swapping punches. We will lose that way. We can however humiliate it, embarrass it, mock it, condemn it, ridicule it, outsmart it, make fun of it and ultimately expose it for what it is.

Which brings us back to Hillary's health care scam. Still reeling from the shock of Bill Clinton's election in

1992, many conservatives, libertarians and other thinking people began listening to Rush Limbaugh. Rush's broadcasts in those days were to us what Winston Churchill's broadcasts must have been to the people of occupied Europe just after the last British and French expeditionary forces had been driven from Dunquirke and the Nazis had sealed fortress Europe. Rush Limbaugh did not orchestrate any coordinated political action, but his words inspired many to take individual action both at the polls and otherwise.

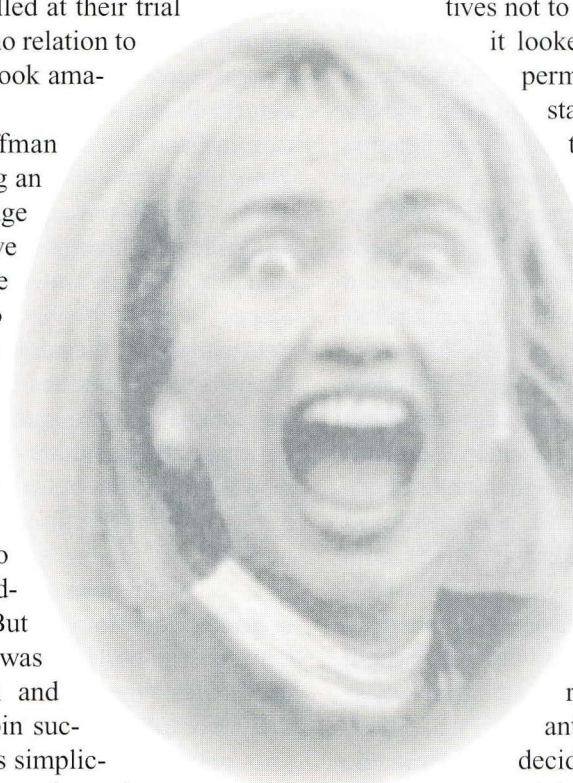
After suffering several setbacks from angry and scared constituents justifiably pressuring their representatives not to go along with Hillary's folly and when it looked like the health care train might be permanently derailed, she decided to jump start the campaign in earnest. Following the golden rule of politics, she decided to go where her strength was, where she knew she would get unflinching support. She chose a place that was enthusiastically kind and receptive to her husband's presidential campaign. She chose the liberal bastion of yuppie wealth and New Age Buddhist dogma, a college campus where the students were more concerned with local ski conditions than what wars were being fought that week. She chose Boulder, Colorado.

Unfortunately for Hillary I was living in Boulder at the time. Upon reading in the local paper that us peasants were to be treated to a royal visit, I decided that I would give Hillary my own special greeting.

I mobilized the troops - a few friends and employees that owed me some favors - and formulated a plan that was simple as it was bold. The night before Hillary was due to speak on campus, my friend and I walked my dog in the area where the podium and seats were being erected. We had a pleasant conversation with one of the campus security people that we got to know during our melee with some radical feminist lesbians at a prior incident (*see "The Deafening Silence of the Feminists" in Issue #1, Volume #1, of The Partisan*).

Our reconnaissance and subtle debriefing of the security officer told us what we needed to know. Where and when Hillary would be speaking. Where the press would be seated. Where the selected audience would be situated. And where and how close to the action the common peasants would be allowed.

We would show up a full two hours before the event and situate ourselves strategically to the immediate left of the press and directly in front of Hillary. This would guar-



antee that anything we did, both Hillary and the press would see. It would deny Hillary of the classic propaganda photo taken of her back facing a sea of friendly faces. And perhaps most importantly it would offer us a degree of protection from the cops insofar as anything they did to us could be photographed and videotaped by the press, which was a stone's throw away

The night before we made a huge banner on a king size white sheet, enormously embarrassing to the first lady neatly rolled up on two wooden planks that we would take with us and simply lay on the ground inconspicuously where we waited with the rest of the gathering crowd. At the right time we would unfurl the banner more or less in Hillary's face and begin chanting our slogans of opposition.

As taught by the masters Rubin and Hoffman we were about to put her in a no-win situation. If she ignored our chants, the cameras and microphones of the press would not and they would have to report our opposition and her inability to address it. Getting such vocal and spirited opposition in a place that she assumed was her stronghold would be a great psychological blow to her and was bound to rattle her confidence.

And if she did attempt to answer us, WE and not her would be setting the agenda and our points would have to be the subject of the sound bite that the media would have to use in its coverage of her speech. Slam dunk. Legal, peaceful, effective. A simple exercise in First Amendment rights. Something even the ACLU would have to back us up on.

The first rule of warfare is to expect the unexpected and be prepared, as Gunny Highway (Clint Eastwood) said in *Heartbreak Ridge* to "improvise, adapt and overcome."

But what unfolded that sunny afternoon on the Colorado University campus in Boulder was beyond the realm of bizarre that even I could imagine.

As we arrived and patiently waited for the party to start, I noticed a bunch of CU Buff football players who were also my customers at the gun shop in town standing along side of us. They were there for the same reasons we were, albeit not quite as organized nor with a prepared script. We happily greeted each other, no one daring to imagine that of all places on earth we would run into each other here.

But this I thought was a sign from the gods. If there was to be any physical trouble, we had the entire defensive unit of the CU football team to block for us-not bad. As zero hour approached, the fidgety Secret Service men with sunglasses and wires running from their ears into their neatly tailored suits nervously eyeballed the swelling crowd. My dog began tugging on his leash and the Secret Service men ordered me in no uncertain terms to move my dog further back from where he was. Obviously they had seen "*The Doberman Gang*" one time too many.

I decided that this was a good time to walk the dog and off I went. When I returned about 20 minutes later my friend told me dejectedly that my other friend gave my business card-that's right, the one for Paladin Arms to the Secret Service and bragged to them that we could get them any kind of gun they wanted. In shock and disbelief I confronted him about it and he could not immediately grasp why I was so upset.

None of us had any way of knowing how this would unfold. Anytime you involve yourself with a public demonstration surrounded by hordes of unfriendly people and the First Lady (who in this case is actually the President of the United States) a few yards away and there are scores of twitchy secret servicemen around-well, anything can happen. The United States Secret Service having my business card in hand prior to the opening pitch was not part of the game plan.

My friend argued that we were not planning anything illegal-which of course was true-and couldn't understand my concern and anger over what he had done. In retrospect he was probably right in that we weren't going to be doing anything illegal and it was a safe bet that once the banner went up and the chanting started, we would be photographed by more cameras than Pamela Anderson on a nude beach. It wouldn't take Sherlock Holmes to figure out who we were, but nevertheless I became paranoid and told him that it was off and that the banner would not be unfurled.

At this point the hand-picked human props were ushered in to the area just in front of us, sandwiched between us and Hillary. These were what the Communists used to call the politically "reliable" people. In this case they were little black girls in wheelchairs, and little Oriental girls with crutches and other girls and boys with locks of blonde curls and rosy, hopeful faces. In some cases their parents were with them. In other cases they were just with other children and carefully selected adults.

Suddenly a small private plane became visible to the crowd towing a sign, kind of like the ones I used to see at the beach in Coney Island when I was a kid. But unlike the planes at the beach which towed a sign that read Coppertone, this sign read "Hillary, disclose your Savings and Loan assets." A bad omen for the first lady.

Meanwhile we continued with our heated argument as Hillary Clinton was being introduced to the crowd. I stood on the wooden planks, physically preventing them from being picked up and the banner unfurled. Finally my friend gave me his word that he would not unfurl the banner and told me that he was just disgusted and wanted to take the banner and go home. I lifted my foot and as he reached down for the curled banner. The next few minutes of madness unfolded in slow motion like the shootout scene in a Sam Peckinpah movie.

Hillary had just ascended to the podium as he took

the banner. He immediately started to unfurl it with the help of the CU football players who were unaware of what had transpired between us. The huge banner was now erect and spread across in its 10 feet of glory. The dark black letters dripping in red blood read, "What did Vince Foster Know?"

Hillary took one look at the banner, was physically shaken and descended from the podium without saying a word. At the same instant I jumped on my friend and frantically tried to tear the banner down, more angry with him for lying to me than concerned over whatever repercussions might occur as a result of our street theatrics. With my white Samoyed dog named Uzi still attached to my wrist by his leash, I began to wrestle with my friend.

The supreme irony of the situation is that everyone in the crowd, including the Secret Service men, all thought I was a Clinton supporter attacking the banner. Before I knew it there were more hands on me than at a revival meeting and campus security was pulling me off my friend. There is pushing and shoving in the crowd and amidst all this the people near me are screaming "watch out for the dog!"

The authorities make it real clear to me that my three options are to shut up and behave, walk away or go to jail, go straight to jail, do not pass go, do not collect two hundred dollars. Campus security start explaining to me how they have a right to express themselves, even if they are a bunch of idiots. I begin to compose myself and calm down when I see a bunch of gorillas in suits walking in our direction carrying big, wooden crates and banners.

They shove the crippled kids and Stephord wives out of the way and quickly construct a platform with the crates directly in front of us. Then they climb on them and unfurl their pro-Hillary banner to block ours from view. It is of course too late. The press and Hillary have seen it, the horses have been let out of the barn. I can't help but wonder if our close encounter with these Neanderthals would have been even more up close and personal had the defensive line of the CU Buffs had not been by our side.

This is all a bit much for me and with a very confused dog in tow I make my way out of the crowd. The opening line of the story in the papers the next day is "Hillary Clinton is attacked from a combined air and ground assault in Boulder." All of the television coverage shows our banner and Stephen Coontz's banner being towed by his plane. The AP and UPI wire services cover the protest. The Denver and Boulder papers interview my friend and he gets almost as much coverage as the first lady.

Keep in mind that the press are a bunch of working stiffs like the rest of us and get bored out of their minds and disgusted with the rhetoric of lies that spew out of politicians' lips like lava from a volcano. You give them a more interesting and exciting angle to cover their story with and they will jump on it. The footage of protesters holding a banner and screaming at the first lady will not end up on the

editing floor of the newsroom. Democratic apparatchniks politely applauding her most likely will. The news does everything it can to make mundane crap seem interesting. Give them something genuinely interesting and you'd be surprised at how much coverage you'll get.

Hillary's listing health care ship takes another hard hit broadside. The bow sinks beneath the waterline as the twisted, crumpling steel of the ship's skeleton moans in an agonizing death cry. The stern rises slightly just before it is forever swallowed by the waves.

Mission accomplished.

The guys on the football team had no idea we would be there. We had no idea they would be there. No one knew Stephen Coontz would be flying sorties that day. What we achieved was in effect a synergy. Together we made something happen.

This type of thing happened in virtually every city and town Hillary showed up in to spin her web. After awhile she gave up. The good guys had finally won an important round. Socialized medicine was defeated-at least this time around


Years later when Madeleine Albright, William Cohen and other members of Clinton's cabinet showed up at Ohio State University to sell their war plans against Iraq to the American people via a live televised ABC Nightline town hall meeting they were again hit with a wave of unorganized opposition and the whole affair blew up in their faces like a cake in a Three Stooges movie.

Last week in San Francisco-a bastion of liberalism-there were spontaneous demonstrations against Bill Clinton when he arrived there to speak. They plastered the area with signs warning of the arrival of a sexual predator. It is a shame that it took the revelation that Clinton is a rapist to arouse the anger and disgust of some of the public, but nevertheless it happened.

Remember that any live situation that is open to the public they cannot control. You can.

If there is a town meeting in your area with your congresscritter or some facsimile thereof, show up. Better still, show up with a friend. Even better, show up with a bunch of friends and feed this guy his lunch in front of the cameras and everyone else. If some bigger fish is coming to town, show up to that event as well.

When the president calls a press conference the press will come running. If you or I called a press conference we would be ignored. If we show up to a place or event where the press is bound to be because some villain political figure is going to be speaking, we are presented with a golden opportunity. Opportunities don't come around often.

Free speech is still protected by the First Amendment-well sort of. Let's speak out now when we can so that down the road we won't have to make ourselves heard with louder things. 



Saving private ryan



The Partisan Movie Review

Steven Spielberg, arguably America's preeminent film maker of the nineties has just won the Academy Award for the Best Director for his new film entitled *Saving Private Ryan*. This epic film breaks new ground in many areas, setting higher standards that future film makers will not have an easy time matching.

The story centers around a small group of American infantrymen led by Tom Hanks, as they hit the beaches at Normandy on D-Day, and proceed inland into German-occupied France. We soon learn that three brothers, all serving in different theatres of combat are killed in action. The fourth brother, Private Ryan, is in a unit that is part of the D-Day invasion force, and the army brass decide that he is to be pulled from the front lines and sent back home. Tom Hanks and the men under his command are given the almost impossible task of finding and ultimately saving Private Ryan.

The film begins in the present and we see an old man—a World War II veteran and his family visiting the grave of a fallen American soldier in the cemetery in Normandy, France. The man is shaken and overcome with emotion as he kneels down before the grave and begins to recall the events that happened over half a century ago, in this now tranquil place.

We are immediately transported back in time to the early morning hours of June 6, 1944 as the American landing craft drop their ramps and the infantry are sent into the meat grinder of the well-entrenched German defenders at Omaha beach. With stunning realism, the film graphically shows the horror and brutality of war and the D-Day landings in particular.

The Allied plan was to attack the beaches from the air and with artillery from naval guns and destroy or at least "soften-up", the coastal defenses. Their hope was that most of the heavy German shore batteries would be destroyed, and what troops survived would be so shell-shocked from the naval and air bombardment that they would be unable to mount any serious opposition to the landings.

There was a thick cloud cover over France the morning of June 6, 1944, and the Allied bombers dropped their payload miles inland from the beaches, leaving the German shore batteries virtually untouched. The big guns of the Navy's battleships also were out of range, sending their ordnance way beyond the beaches, most of it exploding harmlessly in the French countryside. The net result was the same-the German defenses were left unscathed.

As the first waves of American infantry hit the beaches they were cut to pieces. Many of those that were able to make it inland, only did so because the German defenders could not shoot them fast enough. Using state-of-the-art sound systems and a multitude of hand-held cameras, Spielberg was able to re-create the look and sounds of battle so realistically that you don't feel like you are watching a film, rather you feel like you are right in the middle of it.

The next thirty minutes of the film show the desperate, tragic and heroic struggle of the young, bewildered soldiers struggling to survive, and ultimately triumph against almost impossible odds. We see men get shot to pieces in their landing craft before they can even set foot on to the beaches. We see men weighed down with too much gear, get shot beneath the water as they frantically try to unbuckle their web belts. We see one soldier bend down to pick up his arm that was just blown off his shoulder. We see men pinned down on the beaches with no cover, save the bodies of their fallen comrades. We see grown men crying like babies for their mothers in a sea awash in red blood.

We see how the well-laid Allied invasion plans go completely awry. We see how amidst the chaos and horror of war, individual soldiers-privates, corporals, platoon leaders and NCOs, with nothing more than sheer courage and determination, take the initiative and finally move inward from the killing grounds of the beaches and take the high ground

As this epic battle for the future of Europe and ultimately the world was being fought on the bloody beaches of Normandy, elite German Panzer units were a few miles away waiting in anxious frustration for the orders to proceed inland and attack the beachheads. The orders never came that day. No one dared wake up Adolph Hitler and tell him that the dreaded day of the Allied invasion had finally come.

It was unthinkable for the officers of a totalitarian army like the Wehrmacht to take the initiative and attack the beachheads without specific orders.



On the other hand, it was precisely because the officers, NCOs and enlisted men of the American Army were able to deviate from the game plan and improvise their attack, that they were able to succeed. Such is the fundamental difference between the thinking of men who are from a free society and those from a slave state.

Once the beach head is finally secured and the Allied invasion force begins to move inland, Tom Hanks is given his orders to gather his men and pluck Private Ryan from the jaws of battle, and send him home to safety. Amidst the incredible confusion and madness of a massive Allied invasion-very little of which has gone according to plan-Hanks and his men set forth to find the elusive Private Ryan and rescue him.

The journey of this small group of men searching for Private Ryan is somewhat reminiscent of Martin Sheen and his patrol boat searching for Captain Kurtz in the dark jungle rivers of Cambodia in *Apocalypse Now*. Unlike the assortment of misfits and sociopaths that Martin Sheen had to deal with, Tom Hanks is in command of a group of men that are just like you and I-every-day, average Americans. Tom Hanks himself, unlike Martin Sheen, who was a professional soldier, part time assassin for the CIA, and full-time adventure-seeker, is a school teacher who is more at home in the class room than on the battle field. He is where he is not because he has chosen to be there, but rather as a result of circumstances far beyond his control.

Like other Americans who chose to accept rather than shirk their responsibility of defending freedom when the time came, Tom Hanks' character rises to the occasion, and does what is asked of him. In a telling scene his small group of men discover a German machine gun nest in the French countryside. Tom Hanks tells his men that they are going to attack it. Realizing that the position can just as easily be avoided in their search for Private Ryan, one of his men protests and says that their mission is not to take out that particular machine gun nest. Hanks responds by telling them that their mission is to win the war.

After a number of fights and skirmishes and dashed hopes of finding their elusive man, Hanks and the decimated ranks of his men do indeed locate Private Ryan. He is one of the few survivors of his unit - now deployed at a crucial junction - which has been ordered to hold at all costs, until reinforcements

can arrive.


After being told about the death of his brothers, Private Ryan refuses the orders given to him to leave his position and accompany Hanks and his men to the rear, and ultimately back to the states. What ultimately happens is that Hanks and his men join the outnumbered defenders of the bridge crossing against an imminent German attack.

The attack that inevitably comes, as are all of the combat scenes, spectacular in their realism and brutality. The painstaking lengths that the movie maker went through to accurately and faithfully recreate the weapons and tactics of World War II are almost beyond belief.

Equally impressive is the murky, uncharted dimensions of the human psyche that Spielberg chose to explore, in showing the wide range of reactions that people have to the horrors of war. We see the hero and the coward. We are shown honor and disgrace. We witness kindness and betrayal at their most basic and savage levels. We are treated to an intense, unrelenting microcosm of life, highlighted and with sound and visuals that will rattle you to the core.

In the age of the anti-hero where we are supposed to identify with perversion, immorality and indifference, it is a breath of fresh air to see a film where the very best aspects of American values are honored and not trashed with self-hatred and guilt. *Saving Private Ryan* is not however, a film for the feint-hearted. Its graphic violence and incredible realism will leave the most hardened amongst us deeply moved and shaken when we leave the theatre. It is however, in the final analysis a thoroughly uplifting film.

If you have not already seen the film go out and do so now while it is again on the big screen. Waiting to see this film on video would be like looking at the Mona Lisa through a burlap bag. The film has been re-released because of its many Oscar nominations and awards and will be playing for a number of months to come.

Saving Private Ryan is probably the closest any of us will come, who have never been in combat to experiencing the horrors of war. Perhaps this sobering experience will motivate us to re-double our efforts to regain our freedoms without ever having to fire a shot. As the film so solemnly reminds us, freedom is not free. 

The Partisan

Guerilla Garb



U.S. ECWS Gore-Tex Suit

As long as armies have been waging war, it appears that they have been more concerned with pomp and ceremony than with the functional characteristics of their uniforms. With the exception of medieval body armor that was rendered obsolete, first with the introduction of the long bow and later with firearms, most armies were concerned only with being able to differentiate their men from the enemy. It would be centuries before effective body armor for the common foot soldier would return to the battlefield with the American army in Vietnam.


Those armies that did give thought to their uniforms were usually preoccupied with nationalistic or religious matters showing little or no concern for truly functional features. Ignoring the hard-learned wisdom gained during the French and Indian Wars, the British Army was severely handicapped by their ceremonial red coats which made them easy targets for the muskets of George Washington's Army during the Revolutionary War.

The Boer war fought between the Dutch and the British in Southern Africa at the turn of the century, saw the first truly effective use of camouflage clothing by an entire army in combat. Even in World War I, the American troops were sent into combat in largely ceremonial uniforms, that were designed more for the parade ground than the battlefield.

Tales of German troops on the Russian front and Chinese troops in Korea dying from the cold because their clothing was not adequate to deal with the frigid winters they encountered, abound amongst the horror stories of war.

One reason for this oversight on the part of mili-



With a little bit of foliage for cover, the woodland camo pattern makes a man virtually invisible. The only discernable features are the shooter's bare hand and rifle barrel. 



taries, in terms of issuing proper clothing to their troops, is that the larger the military, (like the U.S.) the wider the range of possible theatres of conflict its men may be sent to fight in. Therefore the greater number of uses that any one piece of gear may be used for.

This built-in versatility often renders the garment less than ideal for any one intended purpose. Combine this with the inherent problems of satisfying the requirements of a multitude of army brass and bureaucrats, often at cross purposes, and you begin to see why so much military clothing has severe limitations and drawbacks. Typically, military clothing is well made, rugged, over-engineered for its intended purpose, with superfluous features that no one would use in ten lifetimes, and some basics that are incredibly lacking.

Be that as it may, this was the archaic system that prevailed in almost every army in the world and still does today in many cases. After World War II, most western armies made significant strides in research and development to remedy this problem, and produce clothing that combined true comfort, function and concealability for the men wearing it.

It was not until the eighties however, that the United States, NATO, Great Britain and some of the commonwealth countries decided to stop reinventing the wheel and turn to true professionals in the field of rugged, functional outdoor gear and clothing—the mountaineers. American companies that catered to mountaineers and backpackers came into their own in the 1960's. The proliferation of baby boomers taking to more adventurous outings than their parents did, were fertile ground for new companies like The North Face, Sierra Designs, Gerry, Holubar, Kelty, Hine Snowbridge and others.

Over time it seemed that those companies that prospered, shifted their focus from technical gear to fashionable ski wear. In those days, as is still true today, there is a much greater market for ski clothing than serious climbing attire. As many hard-core mountaineers became disillusioned with the quality or lack thereof with many of the popular outdoor clothing manufacturers, they began their own basement sewing machine operations. At first these home grown operations were just designed to supply their own insatiable appetite for clothing and gear, but as

time went on and the word grew, these hippie climbing bums became innovators and entrepreneurs on the very cutting edge of design and technology in their respective fields.

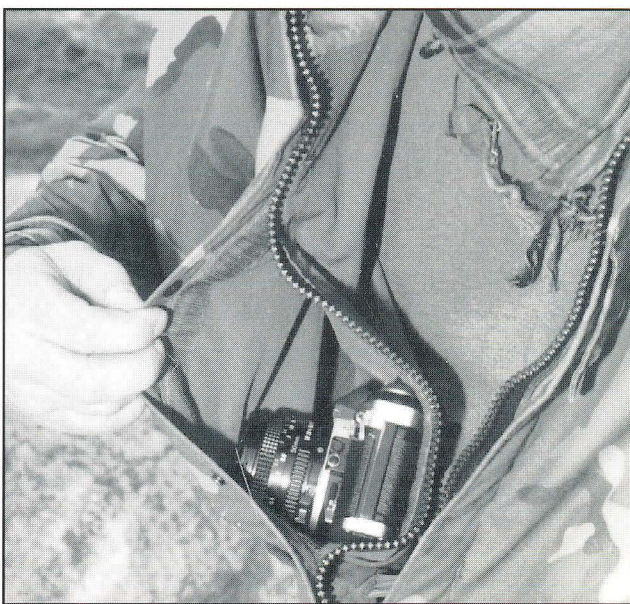
One such company was Marmot Mountain Works. Founded by Eric Reynolds in Grand Junction, Colorado. This unique company in the mid-seventies, made truly state-of-the-art clothing and equipment that was the envy of virtually everyone else in the industry. Back in those days, everything was actually made in the U.S. and the quality and performance of its products was truly exceptional.

Marmot Mountain Works still exists today, but it is no longer owned by Eric Reynolds, its product line, like almost everything else for sale in the U.S. is made in the Pacific Rim. The company has come full circle now, making its bread and butter with fashionable ski wear. The quality of Marmot products is still fine, but nothing like the good old days when it was all made in Grand Junction.

At any rate, during the heyday of Marmot's innovation and design, they produced a Gore-Tex parka called the "All Weather", which boasted features that no one had ever before seen.



The 16 inch zipper is unzipped giving an additional 9 inch gauntlet to the bottom of the pant leg, allowing easy entry into pant even with boots on.



The hidden chest pockets are generous and easily accessible as in evidenced by the way a full size camera is swallowed in them.

The Gore-Tex pants they made for the parka oddly enough called the "All Weather" pants were equally impressive.

The parka which was made of Gore-Tex, which in itself was unique back then, had underarm zippers, an oversized, elasticized hood, an interior storm skirt, a taffeta lining, hidden Velcro stash pockets and was cut in such a way that the parka did not rise when you lifted your arms above your head.

In an uncharacteristic display of sound judgement and foresight, the army adopted the basic design of the All Weather Parka and received the first prototypes in the mid 80's. After testing many variations on the same theme, the army eventually adopted what is now known as the Extreme Cold Weather System. The ECWS combines the Gore-Tex outer shell based on the Marmot All Weather system-with special modifications, polyester pile bib overalls, jacket, balaclava hood and booties, and polypropylene long johns and top.

Let's look at some of the special features of the parka. First of all it is made from a tri-laminate Gore-Tex material. Gore-Tex is one of those wonderful technological goodies that is one of the benefits reaped from the space program, that was originally used in heart surgery. Gore-Tex is a semipermeable membrane that allows water molecules in the form of vapor to pass through it, yet will not allow water molecules in the form of liquid to do the same.

What this means in a nutshell, is that you can wear a garment that is waterproof and windproof, yet is also breathable so you won't get wet from your body's own condensation. A tri-laminate means that the Gore-Tex membrane (a white, almost chalky film) is sandwiched between two layers of nylon fabric instead of being laminated to only one. This process is more expensive and makes the finished garment somewhat heavier, but it is unquestionably more durable.



Shown is the elasticized storm skirt which hugs the wearer just below the butt and eliminates frigid drafts.

The outer fabric used on the ECWS parka is heavy duty 12 ounce taslan nylon in a woodland camouflage pattern. The other layer that the Gore-Tex is bonded to a light weight tricot nylon. There is yet another layer of silky taffeta nylon that is used to line the entire parka. This smooth fabric makes it easy and quiet to slide the parka on and off regardless what clothing is worn underneath.

The front zipper is a plastic, two-way #10 YKK tooth zipper of full length, which means that it can be zipped up from the bottom as well as zipped down from the top. This feature is especially useful when climbing or wearing a climbing harness. The zipper is covered along its entire length by not one, but two flaps that overlap and fasten to each other with a series of strong snaps spaced apart at 4 1/2 inch intervals.

The pockets on the parka are huge and plentiful, ingeniously designed to minimize the number of seams and needle holes needed to make them. Essentially the entire front of the parka is divided into four giant pockets. The lower two pockets are accessible through storm flaps that are secured

with both snaps and Velcro. The upper two pockets are stash pockets which means that they are hidden from view and only accessible by pulling on hidden Velcro strips sewn in parallel to the upper parts of the zipper. There is a fifth pocket sewn on to the left sleeve measuring 3 1/2 x 7 inches.

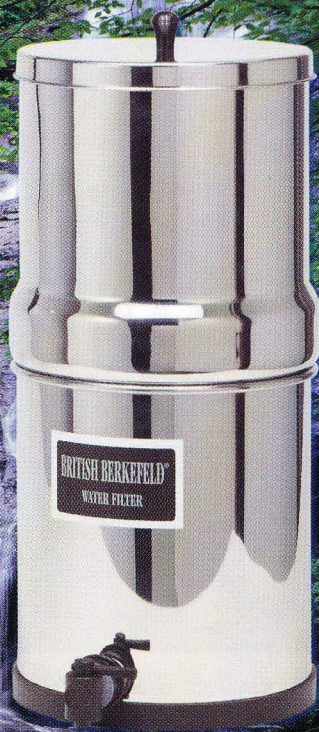
In addition to a draw cord at the waist, the parka also has a storm skirt (see photo) which is essentially a 7 inch strip of taffeta nylon elasticized at the bottom running parallel to the draw cord. This storm skirt snaps together in the front and hugs the wearer under his rear end. This prevents any updrafts from entering the parka and blowing away the warm, dead air that is your first layer of insulation against the cold.

There are 15 inch zippers (#8 YKK coil) that are sewn into the seams under the arms known as pit zips. These zippers when opened provide fast and efficient ventilation for those situations when overheating is a possibility and for a myriad of reasons it is just not practical to stop and remove the parka. One criticism of the ECWS is that the pile jacket and polypropylene top worn underneath the (cont. on page 48)

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their nutritional value through the canning process. Dehydrated vegetables on the other hand, lose only 5%, retaining 95% of the nutrients. Put another way, your family would have to eat 35% more canned vegetables to get the same amount of nutrients found in prepared dehydrated products.

Second is the issue of **Convenience**:

Grocery store canned products are "wet-packed", making the finished product much heavier and more bulky to

store than dehydrated products. Also, "wet-packed" canned products are not recommended for storage periods of longer than one year. **Noah's Pantry** food products can be stored in an area less than 1/6th the size needed to store the same amount of "wet-packed" canned food.

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UNCERTAIN TIMES AHEAD?

Let's face it. No one wants to entertain the possibility of economic/social turmoil in the near future. And the thought of purchasing dry food storage products is **new** for most of us. It certainly is not something that most folks have ever thought they would want....or need. But the winds

of change are blowing. The world economy is increasingly unstable, the Y2K computer problem is real, and our own roller-coaster stock market is making investors more and more nervous.

Is it possible that by the Year 2000, drastic changes may occur to our

way of life? A rapidly increasing number of people believe so. And these are not crackpots or fear mongers, but educated, thinking people who are not content to live

The only thing worse than living in difficult times is trying to live in difficult times unprepared.

in denial when all evidence points to the need for positive preparation for the days ahead. The only thing worse than living in difficult times is trying to live in difficult times **unprepared**.

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Parka do not have corresponding zippers.

The original Marmot gear did have corresponding zippers and made instant ventilation very easy, without having to strip down when on the move. One of the truly great features of the parka is the hood. I cannot emphasize enough how important a good hood design is, and I have found that almost invariably all European parkas have poorly designed and insufficient hoods. Not so with the ECWS. The hood is deliberately oversized to accommodate a helmet. Our tests showed that it will fit over the US Fritz helmet as well as the current issue Israeli and British kevlar helmets.

The hood also has an ingenious feature consisting of dual elastic bands, which when the draw strings are secured, grip the head very snugly. What this means is that when you turn your head the hood turns with you, so that when you look to your left you see what's to your left and not the inside of your hood. The front part of the hood has a sun visor, and the entire outer perimeter of the hood has a series of snaps and Velcro to accommodate an additional winter fur trim.

There are large patches of the same Goretex material on both elbows, and the oversize cuffs of the sleeves are fully adjustable with a long length of Velcro sewn into the tabs. All of the seams are factory sealed eliminating the possibility of leakage through the needle holes left by the stitching.

The parka has "Raglan" sleeves, a brilliant cutting design which allows for enough extra material, so that when you raise your arms above your head the parka does not rise up at all. The overall quality of the parka is first rate and my only criticism is that the bottom front zipper tabs should have been bar-tacked into the parka. With repeated use the bottom zipper tab on the left side has pulled away from its stitching and that will need to be repaired. A minor flaw, but nevertheless something that could have been avoided with a little more thought.

The pants that go with the parka are made from the same Gore Tex as the parka except they do not have the nylon taffeta lining. Both the knees and the seat of the pants are reinforced with an extra layer of the Gore Tex fabric. Running down from the knee to the ankle on each pant leg is a 16 inch zipper that gives way to a pleat that is 9 inches wide on the bottom. This enables the wearer to put these pants on over the largest of boots, even crampons if one is careful. The bottom cuffs are taken up and secured with a Velcro tab similar to those on the cuffs of the parka.

There are two large slits protected with generous flaps, secured with snaps on either side of the pants that allow access to the pockets of the pants being worn underneath. The waist can be adjusted with an elastic shock cord and cord locks. There is a long front fly with a #8 YKK coil zipper. There are two suspender loops sewn in along the waist line. Like the parka all seams are factory seam sealed with hot tape. Again all of the stitching is first rate as is the overall quality with one important exception.

The way these pants were sewn, there is not enough extra material at a critical point in the crotch seam and consequently the crotch area is apt to fray and come apart at that seam. As a matter of course this area should be reinforced with a patch of some kind, but again with a little more forethought, it should not have happened in the first place.

Both the parka and pants are cut oversized to allow them to be worn over multiple layers, as is the concept of a clothing system. What is so great and unusual about the ECWS is that the Gore-Tex can be worn just as rain or wind protection in mild weather, or just with the polypropylene in colder weather and the pile can be added in really cold weather. It is a synergistic concept in which all the individual components complement each other quite nicely. It allows maximum versatility without redundancy. Touche for Uncle Sam.

I have worn my ECWS in every

possible type of weather the Colorado mountains can produce with outstanding results. I really cannot say enough good things about it. I will go into more detail about the cold weather applications with the pile and polypropylene in combination in an upcoming *Partisan* review.

This gear is not cheap by conventional military surplus standards. It will seem expensive for those of you not accustomed to paying prices for state-of-the-art Gore-Tex clothing. An unissued parka will sell for about \$225. Used parkas in varying condition can be obtained for about \$150. Unissued pants will sell for about \$150. Used pants, again in varying condition will sell for about \$100. Keep in mind that these parkas offer features that cannot be found for any price in mountaineering shops. Similar clothing in the mountaineering shops will cost you at least twice as much.

For someone who wants the very best state-of-the-art clothing system that will provide the absolute best protection from the elements, and allow maximum freedom of movement and comfort, and still be able to maintain excellent camouflage the U.S. ECWS is the way to go. The ECWS is made in the USA and is currently being used by many branches of the military. Consequently it is all over the place, but not in any one place in great quantity. The availability of ECWS Gore-Tex has been sporadic at best. The availability of the polypropylene has been very good, but the availability of the pile in human sizes has been dismal. If you are interested in obtaining some, make your inquiries now.

As Y2K approaches there is no question that all kinds of items like these will become both scarce and expensive. This stuff even in "normal" times has not been easy to obtain, so don't think about it too long. It ain't dirt cheap, but it's still one helluva bargain when you take into account what you're getting.



The Real Danger of

by Bob Glass



Unless you've been living on Mars, have been in a coma or you're one of the few Japanese soldiers stuck on some obscure island in the Pacific still fighting World War II, you've undoubtedly heard about the potential computer crisis looming at the dawn of the second millenium. Put quite simply, there are a number of microprocessor chips and pieces of software out there that will not be able to accurately read the date of 2000 when it arrives.

Many computer chips and the software written to run them work on two digit date codes instead of four. Making the chips with two digits instead of four requires less memory, something that is relatively cheap now but was fairly expensive not many years ago. Using only two digits for a date code instead of four results in a small savings on each chip but when you multiply this by the millions if not billions of chips out there in everything from VCRs to microwave ovens to the computers air traffic controllers use to direct airplanes in the sky this adds up to big money.

In the cut-throat world of computer hardware sales, corners have been cut in every conceivable area including the four digit date codes to be more competitive with the next guy. This collective shortsightedness in the industry has resulted in the production of vast numbers of computers and other products that use microprocessing chips that will not be able to read

the year 2000.

Right now the two digit processors read the year 1999 as simply 99. When the year 2000 rolls around they will read the year as 00 instead of 2000. What's the big deal you say? The big deal is that many systems such as oil refineries and nuclear power plants have built-in time checks in their maintenance systems that are programmed to automatically shut the system down if the computer detects that too much time has elapsed between safety and maintenance checks. When the computer clock turns from 99 to 00 at midnight on January 1, 2000, the computers may very well think that the last safety check the system had was in 1900 and will automatically shut down.

Multiply this by hundreds, if not thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, if not millions of computers and appliances, traffic lights and communications systems, power plants, water and sewage systems and, well, I think you get the picture. This will not be a gradual thing that can be dealt with one at a time. It will all hit at once come January 1, 2000. Every aspect of life in a technologically advanced industrial society like ours is directly dependent or strongly affected by computers.

There is a wide range of speculation from intelligent people about what will be the net result of the Y2K computer phenomenon. Some people feel that it will be nothing more than a hiccup in the

system, a slight inconvenience that is really no big deal. They feel that there might be a reduction of power in a few places, higher gasoline prices due to temporary production shortages and a few items missing from supermarket shelves for a few days.

An extra blanket or two on the bed, a candle or a flashlight and a good book and all will be well in a day or so. Some areas might be affected a little longer than others, but those areas can always get help from the rest of the American infrastructure, which they feel certain will not be affected as a whole.

Quite possibly they are right and there is absolutely nothing to worry about. Y2K may boil down to nothing more than a candle lit dinner with the wife and having to sit down and talk to each other instead of watching TV. Certainly worse things could happen.

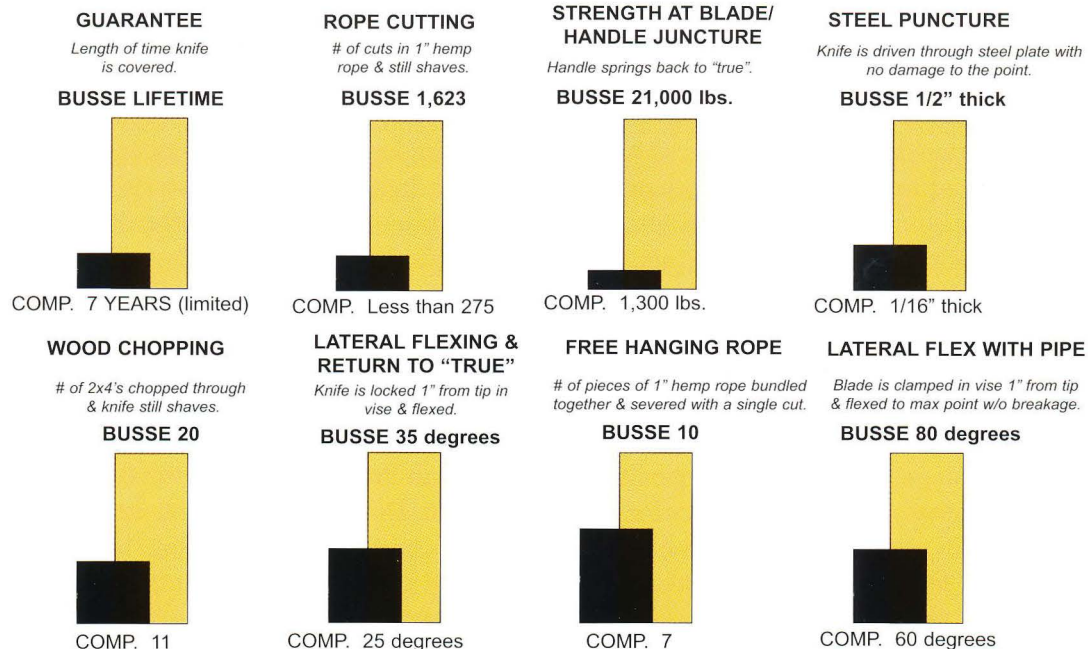
The bottom line however is that no one really knows for sure how extensive Y2K computer-related problems will be. This is a unique situation completely unprecedented in human history and no one has any experience with potential computer failures on the scale that we are looking at now. The unsettling thing is that there are others out there, well educated men and women from the mainstream of Americana-whatever that means-who feel that we are on the precipice of a major global disaster.

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Personally I'm not sure what to think about the severity of the Y2K computer problem. I do know this however-many educated, rational people from all walks of life have been coming to my store (Paladin Arms) to buy all sorts of things from firearms to MREs to blankets to flak jackets to cases of ammunition to kevlar helmets to gas masks to water filters and many, many survival oriented books. Many of these people are not my regular customers, and when I engage them in conversation it is always the same-they are concerned about Y2K.

Many of the folks I speak with don't feel that the world is coming to an end but simply want to hedge their bets with a little back-up food, clothing, equipment and weaponry "just in case." One fellow looked upon his Y2K purchases as cheap insurance. "Hell," he said rubbing his neck with the slow deliberate inflection of an eastern Colorado farmer, "When I think about what I pay for car insurance, health insurance, fire insurance and every other God damned kind of insurance this seems pretty cheap. Besides," he added, "At least I'll have something to show for my money." A point well taken.

Other folks however are not taking this in stride the way that old boy did. Some feel certain beyond the shadow of a doubt that there will catastrophic repercussions from the computer-related failures, including but not limited to severe civil disorder, rioting and looting, starvation, disease, murder, and mayhem. And possibly worse than any of the symptoms of this societal disease will be the cure-the suspension of what is left of the Constitution and the declaration of martial law.

The conspiracy theorists have wasted little time in declaring with unhesitating certainty that the entire Y2K phenomena is nothing more than a government created excuse to suspend the Constitution, declare martial law and of course suspend presidential elections and make Bill Clinton a dictator.

I have never been and am not now a conspiracy theorist, but whether events that come together randomly or by deliberate design have the same net effect on freedom and life as we know it, we must take them very seriously. I most certainly do not share the view that the Y2K situation is the product of some sinister governmental plot, but there is no question that many computers and computer operated systems will be adversely affected by the year 2000. The mother of all ironies here is that just like the boy who cried wolf, it is entirely possible that the conspiracy buffs might be right this once-not for any of the reasons they claim of course, but nevertheless, the end result could be the same: massive failures in the American infrastructure, resulting in disaster.

If a worst case scenario does unfold, which is to say that the computer failures are truly widespread and catastrophic, then a cycle of events may unfold that no one will be able to stop, and the Clinton administration declaring martial law is anything from far-fetched. A major point I wish to make that I find very strange that no one else, or perhaps I should say very few others have talked about, is the great financial collapse **that may happen well before January 1, 2000.**

An important caveat here. It would be grossly irresponsible for me or anyone else to say with

certainty what will happen in the coming months. No one knows and anyone who claims to know is a liar. There are no shortage of shakedown artists, hucksters and con men who will scare the bejeezus out of you and at the same time coincidentally enough try to sell you a product that will unfailingly protect you from the great apocalypse to come. Duncan Long's new book *The Survival Bible* (210 pgs softcover) selling for the paltry sum of \$99 comes to mind.

There are preparedness and Y2K expositions popping up across the country like crab grass on a suburban lawn. Many of these fly-by-night promoters and businesses with the ink still wet on their corporate seals are all too eager to sell you a myriad of products ranging from super miracle herbs and vitamins to a year's food supply at the incredibly low price of only three times what it would cost you in the supermarket.

Again I must emphasize that I am not saying this worst case scenario will happen, but I am saying that there is enough good evidence out there to suggest that it could happen. Having said that consider the following scenario:

Millions of Americans live on some form of welfare, entitlement, subsidy, pension, Social Security or other type of government handout. All of these payments are computerized and work on a date system. Come January 1, 2000, if those computers now operate on the premise that it is 1900 it is entirely possible that the people who are used to getting their monthly check will not get it. In the major urban centers of America such as New York, Los Angeles, Detroit, Washington D.C., Philadelphia, St. Louis,

Chicago, etc., there are entire areas of the inner city where people are not productive and exist on one form of government payment or another. When you suddenly have entire sections of densely populated cities without any money and no provisions you have a very volatile situation on your hands.

Now consider this. The wealth of America is largely on paper. Since FDR took the United States off the gold standard during the Depression, the U.S. dollar is not backed by anything at all save faith in the government. These federal reserve notes which are not backed by anything but the credi-

bility of our trusted leaders like Bill Clinton only represent about 5 percent of the assets in banks and the stock market.


Even though the federal government is currently conducting audits of the various FDIC banks to check on Y2K compliance **they will not release their**

These so-called governments are in reality only great bands of robbers and murderers, organized, disciplined, and constantly on the alert.

Lysander Spooner, 1869

A right, to be truly so, must be right in itself; yet many things have obtained the name of rights, which are originally founded in wrong.

Thomas Paine, 1780



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findings! So the fact of the matter is that no one knows how prepared any bank is to accurately process information come the year 2000. The obvious implication is that come January 1, 2000 no one knows if their bank is going to know how much money of theirs is in the bank. It is all done by computer. If the computers crash there is no written back-up.

Now folks like yourself who are concerned, intelligent and savvy enough to surf the Net, listen to short wave radio and read *The Partisan* are smarter than the average bear and have a clue about what is going on. We are relatively few in number and as we take precautions it will not have that great an affect on the market and the country. But as we progress into mid 1999 the straight media is going to pay more and more attention to Y2K. The Clinton Administration and all of their apologists, apparachniks and various flunkies will all tow the party line that everything is fine, but even the clueless media will not be able to help but stumble upon the obvious truth that all is not well in Oz.

When Peter Jennings, Dan Rather, and Tom Brokaw start talking about how the Federal Reserve is printing billions of extra dollars and how the U.S. Marines and National Guard are carrying out unprecedented riot control and urban policing exercises, even the idiots will start to see the picture. Despite the nervous and clumsy reassurances the CEOs will spout about how your money is safe in their mutual funds and savings banks only the extremely gullible and the brain dead will believe them.

As talk and rumor lead to panic, people will begin to with-

draw their money from banks and the stock market in droves. Their reasoning will be that it is better to sacrifice a few months of interest rather than risk their life savings - and they will be right for once. The only problem is that when millions of them do it all at the same time they will have sealed their own fate - way too late to salvage.

There is not enough cash to go around. The banks only have about 5 percent of their assets on hand. Assets meaning your money. The rest of it has been loaned out to other people. The Federal Reserve will not physically be able to print enough money to give everyone who goes to their bank and closes their account. And if they even try to print up that much money guess what? The dollar could become worthless. Without the backing of precious metal to insure its stability and legitimate value, fiat currency has no intrinsic value. As the government printing presses work overtime you could have inflation comparable to Weimar Germany where people had to take a wheel barrel of cash to the grocery store for a loaf of bread. Net result - millions of people's life savings will be wiped out virtually overnight.

The effect on the stock market will be much the same. As everyone decides to do the "prudent" thing and sell there will be a panic. Keep in mind that the yuppies who have made unprecedented killings in the market in the last decade are not seasoned market players and, consistent with their morally and ethically bankrupt philosophies, they are not in anything for the long haul - just the quick in and out scam killing. They will not have the wherewithal to stay in the market. They will

sell their holdings in wholesale panic and the ripple effect will be catastrophic. The market will crash worse than it did in 1929.

Even without everyone pulling their money out of the market at the same time, think about how incredibly inflated the value of the market is now. The Dow Jones is around 10000 as of the time of this writing. Keep in mind that the stock market does not reflect the value of the stocks, but **THE PERCEIVED** value of the stocks. Remember what Henry Kissinger said, "**Reality is not nearly as important as the perception of reality.**" Ask anyone who plays poker what this means and you'll get an enlightening lesson about life.

The market is incredibly overrated now as even the most bullish Wall Street analyst will admit. Combine this unprecedented balloon with its skin stretched tight expanding larger and larger toward the end of one sharp needle with the year 2000 written on it.

The point being that we won't have to wait until 2000 for things to get out of control. Again, as the straight media devote more and more coverage to the looming Y2K crisis - and make no mistake about it they will - Y2K will be **THE MAJOR STORY** as we move along into 1999 - the average Joe will pull his money out of the bank and the market and the results are catastrophically inevitable.

There is a very good possibility that the extent of actual computer related problems in 2000 will be miniscule if not irrelevant altogether compared to the pending financial collapse that may precede it.

I am not a complete idiot, (although some would argue with



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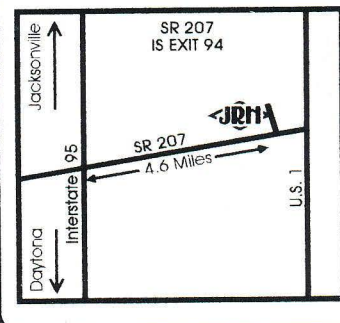
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that) but on the other hand I am no genius. If all of this has occurred to me, it has occurred to the commissars currently in power.

President Clinton doesn't want to be the first American president since Abraham Lincoln to see the infrastructure of the United States get destroyed on his watch. He will do whatever he thinks is necessary to prevent it. We have seen his utter disregard if not outright disdain for the Constitution of the United States in good times, let alone amidst the backdrop of pending bedlam and mayhem on a grand scale.

It is entirely conceivable if not an outright certainty that he will take unprecedented measures to make sure this doesn't happen. The cruel irony is that egotistical politicians never can see the limits of their own power and never really understand the nature of markets. Ultimately there is nothing he will be able to do other than exacerbate the situation, but that will not prevent him from doing his damndest.

He will issue an executive order placing severe limits on the amount of money people can withdraw from their savings accounts in the course of one week - say \$200 or \$300. Banks are controlled by the Federal Reserve system and are a defacto extension of the government anyway. The banks will not protest but will happily obey their orders knowing full well their fate rests in the ability of the government to prevent the hemorrhage of money out of their banks. He will establish some sort of hardship board to listen to special cases and grant exceptions to people who can convince or bribe the commissars of their special "need." He will shut down the NYSE, AMDEX and the Dow Jones to

prevent panic selling from destroying what little value is left of the market.

As Franklin D. Roosevelt did, he will outlaw private possession of gold and give an amnesty date by which people must turn in their gold for federal reserve notes or become felons. Yes like people who own guns and ganja, he will create a new class of criminals out of people who own gold. He will scapegoat people who have tried to protect themselves with precious metals and call them speculators and hoarders who are undermining the economy and public trust with their selfish greed. Severe penalties with selective enforcement are likely to follow.

Antihoarding directives will be decreed as stocks disappear from supermarket shelves. They will threaten to severely punish those who had the foresight and gumption to stock up on food. They will be accused of being responsible for the current emergency and neighbors will be encouraged to report such uncooperative activity to the authorities.

Coupon books for rationing will be distributed just like in World War II. Unlike World War II, however, there will be no spirit of cooperation or sense of common purpose. Things will deteriorate quickly as prophets of doom come out of the woodwork. Religious lunatics and every other nut case waiting in the wings will seize their once in a century chance to rabble rouse and incite a population with legitimate fears and concerns. The possibility of foreign or even domestic terrorism cannot be ignored or discounted either.

Now that I've done my best to scare the bejeezus out of you, let me take a step back.

Nothing that I've just said may come to pass. Like a war game played daily at the Pentagon, I've gone through a scenario that may or may not happen-or perhaps a part of it will happen or a very watered down version may come to pass. On the other hand, if you accept the premises that Y2K will become a major or perhaps **the** major story in the next few months and enough people decide in roughly the same time frame to pull their money out of the banks and out of the stock market everything else that I've outlined is entirely possible.

Even if there is no pre 2000 economic catastrophe, what if the computers really do shut down on January 1 and things start to go downhill fast? It may not happen, but it could. So where does that leave us?

Reason, rationality, common sense and a long, deep breath are a real good start. Of course a healthy belt of Johnny Walker Black couldn't hurt. What is so tricky about this whole Y2K business is that no one knows exactly what to prepare for or how long "it" will last. The following is by no means meant to be a definitive list or a complete manual of survival, but it is meant to provide some common sense guidelines in lieu of a crystal ball.

The three most critical things that we human beings require for survival are food, clothing and shelter. If there is a disruption in the food supply, or if supermarket shelves are picked clean (as they often are in coastal areas prior to hurricane warnings) simply as a result of panic buying, you would be well advised to stock up now while food prices have not yet been affected by any pre Y2K panic.

Assuming your basic strategy is to stay put and make yourself as comfortable as you can in your home, your food selection need not be anything terribly elaborate. Canned goods will last well in excess of a year and any supermarket will have an extensive selection of almost every kind of food imaginable in cans. The larger institutional sized cans will be cheaper per ounce but unless you have a large family or group of people to feed, you might want to stick with smaller sized cans simply because without electricity, there will be no refrigeration and leftover food will quickly spoil.

Food in cans has already been cooked, so even though it may not taste great it is safe to eat any canned food without heating it—a luxury that you might not be able to count on. Rice is another

great staple food that can last for years if properly stored. Many Asian food markets sell rice in 20 and 50 lb. bags; considerably cheaper per pound than what you would pay in the supermarket. Wheat, rye, oats, and various types of beans can also last for years if properly stored but will obviously require water and a heat source to make them edible. These grains and legumes can be obtained in large quantities at various food co-ops and places like Sam's Club and Shopko.

There are a number of mail order outlets that also sell a wide variety of foods; some of them even ship them in long term storage containers. Most of these companies are fair, honest and will give you a good value for your dollar. But buyer beware, there is no shortage of sleazy carpet baggers just trying to cash in on the Y2K scare and will rip you off without blinking. Before you sign any checks, do a little arithmetic and figure out just how much those pinto beans are costing you per pound.

The Red Cross has stated that it would be a good idea to have about two weeks worth of food on hand. I say that would be the absolute minimum but a helluva lot better than nothing. The average amount of food that super-

markets have in stock at any given time is not more than a three day supply. Keep that in mind. A few hundred good quality multivitamin capsules is a real nice thing to have in your stash as well.

If your finances and physical living space can accommodate it, I would suggest that six months worth of food and potable water be kept on hand. This is not so much food and water that it would create a major financial burden nor force people to dramatically change their lifestyles, but it is still a very substantial stash nonetheless and will put you way, way ahead of the game if it all goes really bad. If nothing else, this food and water will buy you the time to assess the situation, weigh your options and make a calculated and intelligent decision about your next move.

Life cannot go on for very long without water. If things get strange you cannot count on turning on the faucet and out comes clean, safe drinking water like you've always known. Clearly the best thing to have would be your own well of drinkable water. Second to that would be a source of fairly clean water that you could reasonably filter and or treat chemically and or boil. Heating fuels may be somewhat scarce so boiling may prove to be a costly and inefficient option but an option nonetheless.

Getting some kind of reliable water filter makes real good sense. Even if you have to "bug out" and leave where you are very quickly, you can always take your water filter with you. Of all of the various water filtration systems on the market, you may want to choose one with a ceramic filter that can be cleaned and used many times again.

Storing water is always an



option and you might do this by simply purchasing a large number of five gallon jugs that you see on top of the water coolers in offices. Supermarkets all carry some kind of bottled water, or simply fill containers with tap water and add a miniscule amount of chlorine to preserve it. These water containers are obviously very heavy and take up a considerable amount of space, but depending on your situation you may not have an option. Count on an absolute minimum of one gallon per day per person.

Disposing of waste and garbage will also be a major problem. Think about how you will bury your waste a safe distance from your water source. Maintaining good levels of hygiene will not be easy, but it will be critical.

January 1 is in the dead of winter, and staying warm will be a major concern for much of the country. For those of us without a fireplace or wood stove, a kerosene heater with an ample supply of kerosene makes a great deal of sense. A camping stove that will run on Coleman fuel (white gas) or some of the newer backpacking models which will run on virtually anything is a good idea. You will want some way to heat your food and boil water. Alcohol stoves are an option, especially in a truly long-term situation where distilling your own alcohol becomes a reasonable fuel source.

A Coleman or Gaz lantern is a good idea; even a good supply of candles will make life much more bearable in the dark. Good flashlights with extra batteries will come in very handy as well.

Failing an artificial source of heat, a good supply of comfortable, efficient, insulative clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, boots,

hats, mittens and the like are a must. If a reasonable level of activity is reached during the day and proper clothing and sleeping systems are employed, people can remain comfortable and healthy for long periods of time in cold environments without the luxury of an artificial heat source.

Stock up on any prescription medicines you may be taking. Your doctor should have no objection to writing you a prescription for extra amounts of whatever medicine you are currently taking. You may also want to give serious consideration to vaccines for such things as hepatitis A and B, tetanus, polio, diphtheria, measles, mumps and anything else that comes to mind. First aid supplies and over the counter medicines like aspirin and antacids will be nice things to have on hand. Toilet paper, soap, shaving cream, razors, dental floss, tampons, all the little things that make life bearable—don't overlook these items.

Five or ten five-gallon gasoline Jerry cans will give you another 25 or 50 gallons of gas which might very well make the difference between getting where you want to go and just being another piece of road kill. Even just getting around town may be a feat if there is no gas. When the time comes when you decide that you need to be somewhere else, gasoline may not be available or affordable. It's real cheap now.

Weaponry is always a good thing to have on hand. In an ugly situation you always want to preserve your options and control the situation—minimize risk. The standard defensive battery of handgun, rifle and shotgun with plenty of ammo should be standard equipment. I won't go into a lengthy diatribe about exactly which

weapons I would choose. There is no doubt in my mind that many wanna bes and really ares will strongly disagree with my choices, but here goes.

A semiautomatic rifle with the capability of accepting high-capacity magazines is a must. The AR-15, Mini 14, H&K 93, Galil, Valmet, Daewoo, AK-47, MAK 90, M-1A, M1 Garand, M-1 Carbine, FN FAL, H&K 91, SKS Carbine and derivatives thereof would make great choices. Bolt and lever action rifles are a lot better than no rifles at all. A thousand rounds of ammunition for each rifle should do.

A high-capacity defensive shotgun is a great in-close defensive weapon to have in the arsenal. The Mossberg 500/590 series, the Winchester Defenders, the Remington 870s, Beretta and Benelli are all excellent choices. Five hundred shells should do the trick.

Semi-Automatics are my personal choice for handguns in a combat situation, but I have a great deal of respect for wheel guns and this really boils down to personal preference. If you can obtain a handgun with a bunch of the pre-ban high capacity magazines, go for it. Glock, Smith & Wesson, Heckler & Koch, Walther, Beretta, Sig, Taurus, Star, Astra, Colt, Ruger, CZ, EAA and Daewoo all make extremely good, reliable handguns. Like the rifle, I think a thousand rounds of ammunition will tide you over.

Body armor is also a nice thing to have. If worse comes to worse and you are actually in a firefight or find yourself in an environment where there is shooting going on, a bunch of Kevlar around your abdomen feels real good. Right now there is a lot of

very high-quality British Military Kevlar flak jackets and helmets available cheap. Look for reviews in upcoming issues of *The Partisan*.

The ability to trade with others is always a good thing because if this thing lasts for any length of time, count on the fact that someone, somewhere has something you will want bad. Have some universal things of value to trade. Gold, silver and ammunition come to mind as the most valuable and universally accepted commodities in crises environments.

Every bit as important as stocking up on food, clothing, weapons and equipment is making plans with friends and relatives who are nearby about how you might help each other in a bad situation. It is not a bad idea to compare notes with others who you trust about what precautions they are taking. By the same token you would be well advised not to advertise what you are doing to the world. No one needs to know about what you are buying and what you are doing other than those who are directly involved with you or in your plans. Keep your mind focused and your mouth shut. If it comes down to crunch time you'll be glad you didn't take my word for it.

There are many survival and preparedness books on the market that are quite good and considerably less expensive than Duncan Long's. There are also many Web sites that are dealing exclusively with Y2K preparedness issues. Some of these sites offer a lot of information, but don't let anything you read, including this article spook you into doing something really stupid.

Buying what you need—obviously depending on what you already own—may cost you a few thousand dollars. People who live in

rural areas most likely already have everything I've talked about and then some. The shopping list may get a bit expensive for you urban creatures, but nothing on that list should require you to take out a second mortgage or sell your blood to a plasma bank.

The bottom line of the entire Y2K dilemma is simply this: even if nothing happens this time around, being prepared both physically and mentally is a good thing. Preparedness is not a giant shopping spree with the VISA card. Preparedness is a mental attitude and a lifestyle. If nothing happens and you've squirreled away a good amount of food, water, warm clothing, firearms, fuel, etc., you are now prepared for virtually any disaster including but not limited to fire, flood, tornado, hurricane, rioting, roving gangs, ethnic and racial unrest, labor strikes, oil embargoes, power rationing, crop failures, livestock diseases, bank failures, layoffs, illness and even foreign occupation.

Virtually nothing may happen at the stroke of midnight on January 1, 2000, and that would be the best news of all. If that comes to pass it will be the happiest New Years that any of us will have for a long time. That doesn't mean that we made the wrong choice for preparing for the worst if nothing happens.

If you're playing Blackjack and the dealer's up card is a five and you're sit-

ting on a seven and a four you double down. You may not be dealt a ten and the dealer may not bust, and you may lose the hand, but the correct move is to double down. Even if you lose the hand, if you doubled down, you played it right.

Y2K may come to nothing and I certainly hope that is the case, but being prepared for the worst is playing it right. There is no reason to panic or fear that the sky will fall, but some common sense, forethought and precaution could pay big dividends not too far down the road. Sacrificing your annual vacation or putting off buying a new car for another year may be a very small price to pay for getting what you need to prepare yourself for the new millennium.

Just remember to keep your back straight and lift with your knees when you pick up those 50 lb sacks of rice.



Working on the Railroad

A Ticket to Freedom

(c) 1998 Claire Wolfe

This article originally appeared in the Loompanics Unlimited 1999 catalog.

Claire Wolfe, one of the finest freedom writers working today, gave me permission to send this around. Thanks, Claire—this is excellent! A further suggestion for reading: there are hundreds of memoirs about WWII, and many of them are from people in many countries who were either in active resistance or worked various underground railroads. I looked in the library today and there's a lot of them. Some of them may contain good ideas, or inspiration at least.

Your phone rings. When you answer, an unfamiliar voice responds tentatively, "Uh, hi. This is Marty Greene." Bam! Your adrenaline kicks in. Your heart rate jumps. You're in the underground - one more time. You don't know who Marty Greene is, and if things work out right, you never will. But when Marty calls - every time a different Marty calls - you always know what to do. You give directions to a neutral rendezvous point. You exchange enough information to assure recognition. Then you pick up the latest fugitive to stop at your station on the underground railroad.

This time, Marty Greene might be a weary-looking laborer in his 40s. Last time Marty was a determined young woman with two children. The time before that, he was a 60-something intellectual, bewildered in a rough world he never expected to see. No matter.

Marty stays with you for a night or two, gratefully eats your home-cooked meals and rests from the road. You don't ask - and Marty never tells - his personal story. He doesn't know your real name, and you never know his. Soon, you drop him in some public location, where he calls the railroad's "engineer." The engineer gives him the phone number of his next conductor, and Marty is gone.

Eventually, you hope, the mysterious railroad will supply him with a new identity so he can stop somewhere and establish a life, far from whatever threw

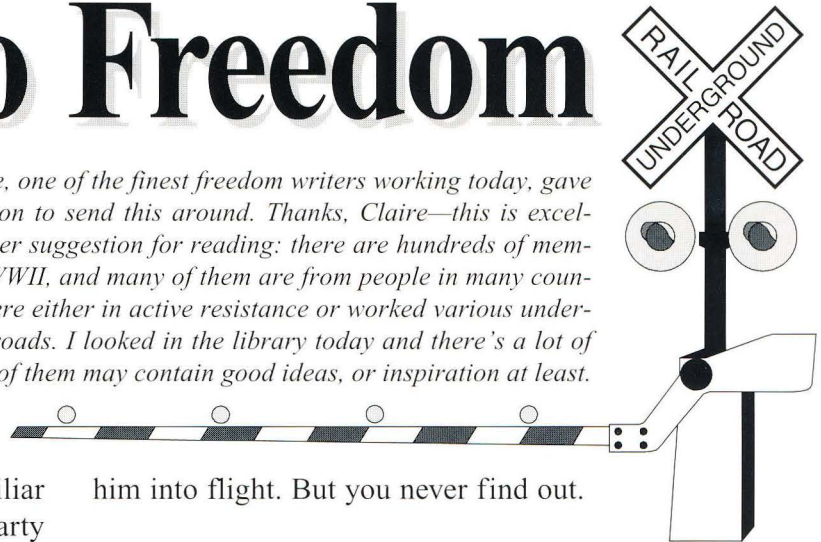
him into flight. But you never find out.

Like Marty, you know only the engineer. You don't know the other conductors. You don't know the locations of any station but the one you operate. You don't know what lies at the end of Marty's weary road. You don't know anything except what you need to know.

But you do know you're helping someone toward freedom. You're part of the underground railroad, a road as old as tyranny itself. - As long as there have been unjust laws, people have found escape routes from them. They always have; they always will.

The mothers of Moses and Jesus had to smuggle their sons to safety to preserve them from infanticidal edicts by tyrants. For the first 300 years of Christianity, believers - outlaws all - were driven to seek refuge in places like the Roman catacombs. Later, once various forms of Christianity had received the sanction of governments, Catholics hid from vengeful Protestants in "priest holes," while suspected pagans escaped rampaging Catholic inquisitors - or died.

America has always had its undergrounds. Sam Adams and John Hancock were smuggled out of Boston to safe houses just before the "shoot-out" at Lexington and Concord with General Gage's firearms-confiscation force. Later, in this land of the free, slaves ran into the unknown, into hardship and



sometimes into death, rather than submit to being property.

In the 20th century, mountaineers hid prohibition-spawned moonshiners from the gun-toting "revenooers." Underground railroads helped fugitive Jews, anti-Nazi Germans and downed pilots escape to safety across a ravaged Europe, and sometimes all the way into America. During the Vietnam War, college students sneaked draft resisters into Canada, while other far-flung networks hid fugitive members of the Weather Underground and Black Panthers.

The need hasn't gone away. There are railroads in operation, here and now. Some spirit away mothers with children alleged to be victims of sexual abuse. Others shelter illegal refugees from foreign dictatorships and wars. Another helps gay teens escape forced "cures" in mental institutions. There's even a sort of aboveground underground that helps sick Canadians escape Canada's rationed, state-run medical system for care in the United States.

There are small networks that hide fugitive members of the "anti-government" movement. Some of these are tightly planned and structured. Others appear spontaneously. They may consist of nothing more than a desert trailer dweller offering a night's stay, a ride in a pickup truck, and the name of a sympathetic cousin to a pair of media-hunted survivalists.

Yes, undergrounds already exist. But here in America at the end of the twentieth century, we ain't seen nothin' yet. What we are about to see is an explosion of freedom undergrounds. Count on it. Tyranny, injustice and unconscionable control over individual lives always lead to undergrounds. Invariably.

Maybe you don't think we live in tyranny yet. Maybe those of us who fear the jackboot in the door are a few years ahead in our perception. But the fact is: every time a new law passes that prevents peaceable people from living as they wish, without fear, tyranny grows. The need grows. The network grows. Your day for needing an underground escape route may be different than mine, or the man's down the block. But anybody who thinks America isn't on the path to a vast underground railroad system just isn't paying close attention.

Who might end up on the run? Maybe you, if you refuse to turn over banned guns. Maybe your best friend, if he decides to run rather than face a long sentence for a victimless crime. Maybe your girlfriend if she doesn't want her every move tracked in a federal database. Maybe your neighbor, if he's lost his home because he filled in a "wetland" in his driveway. Maybe your immigrant friend, who can't prove he's not a criminal after being found with "too much" cash. Maybe your sister, if her religion forbids turning her children over to the government health-care patrol. Maybe the guy who puts out a political newsletter or broadcasts "anti-government" messages. Maybe you and your neighbors, on the terrible day you have to become guerrilla fighters or saboteurs rather than bend your knees one more time to tyranny.

Who'll build the railroads? That's also going to have to be you, and your neighbors, and your family and friends. Maybe it's time to get ready Laying the rails But how? Where do you begin? In the worst case (nobody would recommend this), you'd start when a friend in need showed up on your door. In a circumstance like this, pity, rage or sheer necessity might move you to want to get involved. But it's going to take much more than that to sustain a railroad.

Brendan Maura [1] knows. He and his wife Kathy operated a station on one of America's underground railroads in the 1980s and early 90s. He says, "Emotion is high-octane fuel and dissipates quickly. In the underground, short-term excitement is soon followed by long-term nervous strain and interference with the routine of one's normal life. For the long-haul journey on the freedom road, a person needs to have resiliency of mind, soul and spirit born of deep spiritual convictions, either secular or religious. Without these, people are better off to accept the chains and not mess around with resistance to tyranny."

Assuming you're ready for the long-haul, what next? He suggests, "The first thing to do is make an inventory of acquaintances you trust. Bring up in conversation, 'Isn't this a terrible thing? What would you do if...?' Do this without ever telling them exactly what you have in mind. Later, you might talk about the history of resistance. If that brings a light to their eyes, you can broach the idea of how you and they might start such a movement."

He lays out fundamental guidelines for building a freedom railroad:

1 Each member of your original group must be willing to learn to be an "engineer" - that is, an operator of a fully independent railroad with its own network of routes and stations. "It's fine to work together as a railroad for a short time to learn the ropes," Brendan says, "but it is poor tactics to run an escape route where everyone knows everyone.[2] Thus, any founding group may evolve into several independent railroad operations or one of the original members may go inactive, only to pick up the engineer's job in an emergency.

2 Engineer training must include: methods for identifying acceptable travelers; ways to protect identities of travelers and railroad workers; knowledge of what makes good stationmasters and stations; routes and transportation methods; covert communications; emergency backup plans; legal ramifications; and general security measures. Every engineer should especially learn countermeasures to minimize infiltration by bogus refugees, who may be informants or agents provocateur.[3]

3 Each stationmaster, engineer or conductor must be prepared for failure. "Sooner or later, if the fugitives sought by the tyrants are perceived to be important enough, the government will take serious steps to round up not only the fugitives, but those who have been helping them. In some cases, those who have run resistance railroads have been dealt with far more harshly than the fugitives. For example, in World War II, an escaping pilot would only be sent to a POW camp; those who had helped

him were summarily executed in most cases."

4 You should "judgment-proof" your assets as much as possible before getting seriously involved. In other words, transfer ownership of major assets to friends, family members or carefully structured trusts. This may - but won't always - decrease your vulnerability to asset forfeiture, that unconstitutional tactic so beloved of corrupt enforcers. You must remember that legislation increasingly authorizes confiscation of assets used in "crimes," even if the person who owns the asset has no knowledge of the allegedly criminal activities. You simply cannot eliminate every risk.

5 Establish a logistical supply system. Friends who can't participate actively might nevertheless be able to provide food, clothing, money, medical aid or other necessities.

6 You must have someone who can engineer the "paper trip" - that is, obtain or create false ID documents for the refugee. This person must be as well protected as anyone within the system. The job of getting ID is about to become more difficult than ever (More about that later.), but it is also more vital than ever.

7 The traveler must keep moving. No matter how weary she is, no matter how tempted the stationmasters are to allow him to stay, this is a railroad, not a hotel. The surest way to be found out is to allow the traveler to stop.

BUILDING FOR SECURITY

In the underground where the Mauras worked, everyone entered the train at a single station. The engineer was the only person who ever knew the identity and location of every conductor, station and traveler.

The security advantage is obvious. Participants can't betray each other, even under severe duress. They simply don't have the knowledge.

However, the vulnerability of the system as a whole is equally obvious. If you take out the engineer, you've stranded passengers in mid-journey and halted the operation of the entire railroad, perhaps permanently.

A more decentralized railroad, with small, independent route systems and carefully controlled connection points between them (a cell system), has the advantage, like the Internet, of being able to route around blocked or dam-

aged points, while still not enabling participants to compromise many others. You get additional flexibility, but never without at least some degree of additional danger of exposure.

If you use the single-engineer system, Brendan says, "Each safe house operator must know that at any time the engineer might be arrested and that the operator must be prepared to help the refugee on hand hide out at someone else's fallback place until the smoke clears. If the engineer emerges with the railroad membership still intact, well and good; the refugee can be retrieved from the fallback house and sent on. If not, the operator may have adopted a permanent member to his or her own family - at least until a new railroad can be built."

THE PEOPLE FACTOR

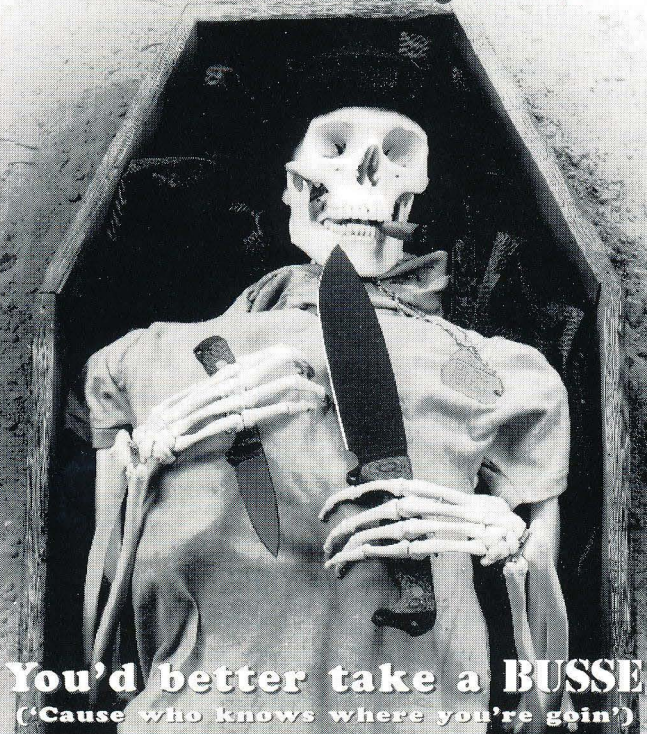
As anyone who's ever been involved in covert activities knows, the most difficult aspect of security lies in judging people. Whether you are a traveler or an engineer, you must find the straight track between naive trust and paralyzing suspicion. There is no magic method for doing so.

While it's the travelers' jeopardy that drives the system, it's the engineer, and secondarily, the stationmasters, who are in the greatest potential danger from the traveler. Typically, the traveler comes looking for the railroad, probing, through friends of friends, for a source of refuge and escape. While it's theoretically possible for the traveler to be steered into a bogus railroad and busted, it's more likely for a police agency thus to try to plant a bogus traveler in a genuine railroad to bust the operators.

The most open engineer of an underground railroad in the contemporary U.S. is Faye Yager of Atlanta, whose network hides parents fleeing with children alleged to be victims of child abuse. Yager holds "office hours" openly in a Dunkin' Donut shop, where she meets potential travelers - something few other railroaders would dare do. She demands considerable documentation of their cases, but also uses her gut and experience when judging whether to put a traveler on the road.

Even so, Yager was fooled at least once by a plant. And you must remember that government agencies will go to great lengths to build plausible identities for their agents. (When the U.S. Marshal's service was trying to capture Randy Weaver, for instance, one of their abortive plans was to have an agent pretend to buy the acreage up the

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hill from him. I have in my files a copy of the license for this fictitious person's fictitious dog; that's how detailed they were willing to be for a plan they never even carried out.)

If you are the engineer, it may be safer to keep your eye out for potential travelers and invite them into the system at your discretion - since anyone who approaches you should automatically be considered suspect. But this way will inevitably miss many people in genuine need.

If you are the potential traveler, you can see how difficult operators' suspicions could make your life. Already desperate, you may find yourself greeted with mistrust and demands for proof of your case that you don't possess. Prepare for it. You are either going to need to persuade skeptical people of your genuineness, have such a widely known or obvious plight that strangers know it's right to help you, or you are going to need to be part of an established network of very trusted and trustworthy contacts that can get you onto the railroad on word alone. If you

don't have that, you're going to need a lot of luck and quick thinking to find your way into a railroad once you're in trouble.

I consider myself to be fairly well "networked." But when I put out the word that I was working on an article about underground railroads and wanted to interview travelers and operators, I met a solid wall of silence, even when I assured everyone that interviews could be anonymous. I asked a friend, whose underground connections far exceed mine, to put out feelers. He reported that the response was, flatly, "Why do you need to know? Are you planning to run?"

The Murras, who ultimately gave so much of their time and goodness to this article, felt able to speak solely because they were busted several years ago, after letting a traveler stay too long, and can no longer work on the railroad. Others who gave hints of their experience were also long off the road.

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ID: TICKET TO THE FUTURE

There is one huge boulder lying on the tracks of any future railroad: the problem of ID. Slaves who escaped their nineteenth century masters needed little in the way of identification. Theirs was not an ID Age. The twentieth century radicals who revived the underground railroad in America during the 1960s perfected the "dead-baby" method of ID: Find the grave of a child born within a few years of you; write for a certified copy of its birth certificate; use the certificate to get a drivers license and social security number and you're in business.

Today, with death certificates routinely being filed with birth certificates, the "dead-baby" method is practically a dead letter.

Illegal immigrants and privacy seekers have recently driven a market in expertly forged ID. However, as ID documents become increasingly tied to databases, and as the federal government increasingly imposes measures like its "pilot program" to require all workers to have their social security numbers scanned before they'll be allowed to get a job [4] the ID question naturally becomes more difficult.

BUT NEVER IMPOSSIBLE.

Weary travelers who want to get off the underground railroad and settle in peace will have to put their best hopes in such things as: Corrupt DMV and Social Security officials, willing (for a price) to issue "genuine" drivers licenses and ID cards without messy details like proof of identity. Places where immigrants gather are already rife with such helpful criminals;

Fake ID with built-in electronic devices clever enough to fool a scanner;

Stolen equipment capable of duplicating the most high-tech ID;

Plausible fake ID used in conjunction with false database entries, made by sympathizers "on the inside";

Sabotage that renders high-tech ID systems too unreli-

able to count on.

A former army counterinsurgency agent, who has also worked in the freedom underground, suggests:

We need to talk among ourselves now to find ways of circumventing the increasingly sophisticated identification cards, chips and facial-recognition cameras being designed to block escapes. These technological tools are not developed by tyrants, but by "our kind" of people, and we must find ways to recruit them to our side so that they can teach us how to foil or counterfeit the systems.

We are also going to need to recruit "moles" to infiltrate the FBI, BATF, IRS, DEA, SSA and their state- and county-level equivalents. These recruits should come from idealistic college-aged men and woman who have not yet become identified with any resistance movements. Fired by an insurgent idealism, such moles will do the extra work needed to rise in the ranks until they occupy positions which will give them access to the plans and technologies of the tyrants. Naturally, no infiltrator will know that there are any others, let alone who they might be.

Wouldn't it be easier simply to "turn" present government employees? This counterinsurgency agent friend warns: "You always have to be careful of the person who comes to you and says, 'I'm a government employee and I'm ready to turn,' Chances are, he's an agent provocateur. You're better off to put your own person in there, even if it requires much more time and preparation."

DON'T LEAVE A PAPER TRAIL

While travelers will need expert ID to be able to disembark from the railroad, it's equally important that no ID follow them into the railroad or on their journey. Every railroad worker must likewise be protected against exposure of his identity.

Anonymity at every stage, and for every participant, is critical. A single document, or even something like a monogram or laundry mark, could, in the worst of circumstances, bring about a catastrophic wreck.

Faye Yager, the Atlanta-based railroad operator, has chosen to make her own identity public for a variety of reasons. But she protects other participants rigorously. A few years ago the FBI, frustrated by years of futile efforts to halt Yager's train, collaborated with the Atlanta police to work a sting operation involving a bogus mother on the

run. Sweeping into Yager's house with both arrest and search warrants, enforcement agents hauled away boxes of papers, as well as the videotaped interviews Yager had conducted with children prior to accepting them into her railroad.

Yet nowhere among all the papers could the FBI find any names or addresses. And that's the way it must be in any railroad.

After a jury found her not guilty of all charges, two jurors came to Yager and volunteered their homes to help her shelter children.

And that, too, is the way it will need to be, if a truly dynamic freedom railroad is to be built. People will need to look right into the pit of danger and still be willing to help - because it's necessary and because it's right.

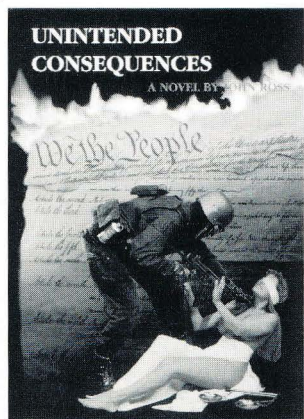
"Besides," Brendan Maura shrugs, "you face danger on the freeway every day. This, at least, is for a cause."

He adds: "People are going to be arrested, perhaps killed. Networks are going to be blown. What we need is for people to respond by saying, 'Well, I guess it's my turn to start one now.'"

Further reading: **Let My People Go** by Henrietta Buckmaster, University of South Carolina (originally written in 1941, reprinted in 1992); **The Hiding Place** by Corrie Ten Boom, Fleming H. Revell Company (reprinted October 1996); **The Safe House** by Jefferson Mack, Paladin Press, 1998.

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1. Names changed to preserve anonymity.
2. Members of a railroad operation typically include: the engineer; the traveler (the person escaping); the stationmaster, who shelters the traveler for a day or two; and the conductor, who helps the traveler get from one station to the next. With modern communications and transportation, the role of the conductor is usually, but not always, absorbed into that of the engineer or stationmaster.
3. For one possible technique, see "Mike Kemp: Snitch Detector," Loompanics Summer catalog supplement or find it on the net at http://www.curleywolfe.net/cw/E_KempSnitch.html.
4. Public Law 104-208, signed September 30, 1996, requires pilot programs in five states. Other legislation is pending that would turn social security cards into scannable photo ID nationwide.



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Nicholas Owen

by Dave Kopel

In some parts of the United States, as in most of the rest of the world, persons who wish to exercise the fundamental human right to keep and bear arms must sometimes resort to hiding their guns or knives. In China, as in many other countries, people must hide illegal Bibles. But suppose that instead of hiding a handgun or a Bible, you had to hide your religious leaders?

Several hundred years ago, a small man named Nicholas Owen made himself an expert in constructing hiding places for clergymen. Owens' story is the story of

the great things that even the most wretched person can accomplish—with courage and faith.

In the late 1500s and early 1600s in England, during the reigns of Queen Elizabeth I and then King James I, everyone was legally required to attend and participate in the church services of the Church of England. The head of the Church of England was the monarch.

Even the possession of Catholic religious objects, such as rosaries, was illegal, and smuggling a Catholic priest into the country was punishable by death by public torture.

The vast majority of

the English people sheepishly followed the government's religious laws, and practiced the Anglican religion, just as their parents had sheepishly followed the government's requirement to practice the Catholic religion, when Catholicism had been the state's monopoly religion a few decades earlier.

But history is made by determined minorities, rather than by docile majorities, and England was blessed with a good number of people for whom following God was more important than keeping out of trouble with the government.

During the reign of Queen Mary I (1553-58)

England was officially Catholic, and Protestants were viciously suppressed. The great deeds of the Protestant English martyrs resisting "Bloody Mary" are recounted in Foxe's Book of Martyrs which was, next to the Bible, the most influential book in the development of the Protestant religion in the English-speaking world. (A full text of Foxe's Book of Martyrs is available at <http://www.myhomepage.net/~jhdearmore/foxeindex.htm>.)

Mary was succeeded by her Protestant half-sister, Queen Elizabeth I. Elizabeth convinced Parliament to pass the Act of Supremacy and the Act of Uniformity in 1559, which turned England into an exclusively Anglican religious nation, by law.

Most English people went along with the change. Elizabeth, for her part, asked only for external shows of conformity, and rejected advice to persecute persons who remained secret Catholics. She had no desire to make "a window into men's souls," she explained.

Unfortunately, the Catholic powers of continental Europe, led by Spain and encouraged by the Pope, plotted to assassinate Elizabeth, and attempted to overthrow her by force. The defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 removed the military threat, but the Protestant majority turned intensely suspicious of

the small Catholic minority. Persecution of the Catholics grew severe.

In 1603, King James I succeeded Elizabeth. In the years before taking power, he had dropped hints that he might tolerate Catholics. Indeed, his Danish wife, Queen Anne, was a quiet Catholic. But upon becoming King of England, James made it clear that there would be no relaxation of the stringent anti-Catholic laws or their enforcement.

And this is where the hero Nicholas Owen enters the story.

Owen was born in approximately 1550 to a fervently Catholic family. When Anglicanism was established as the state religion, the Owen family became "recusants"—meaning that they paid hefty fines rather than attend Anglican church services.

Two of Owen's brothers became Jesuit priests. The third, Henry Owen, ran a covert Catholic printing press. When he was sent to prison for his continued recusancy, he managed a secret press from prison.

Nicholas Owen was only a little taller than a dwarf. But this was only one of his medical problems; because of a hernia, his stomach had to be held together by a metal plate. After a pack-horse fell on him in 1599, he was further disfigured, and walked with a limp for the

rest of his life.

Most Englishmen of Owens' time thought that a twisted body was an outer sign of a twisted character. But as Antonia Fraser observes in her book *Faith and Treason: The Story of the Gunpowder Plot*, Owen's "great soul and measureless courage" offered "the strongest possible refutation of the contemporary prejudice."


Trained as a carpenter and a mason, Owens became perhaps the greatest builder of hiding places in man's history.

The English Catholic community needed priests, both for spiritual leadership, and for administration of the sacraments. But harboring a priest was a capital offense.

So in the large country mansions owned by England's crypto-Catholics, Owens constructed ingenious hideouts for priests.

Mansions were built of stone in those days, so Owen's task was especially difficult. The English government's priest-catchers ("poursuivants") would carefully tap on walls, and a hollow sound would immediately betray a room that was hidden through mere use of an empty space.

So Owen's hiding place were much more sophisticated. For example, at the Baddesley Clinton mansion, Owen contrived secret trapdoors in the turrets and stairways, connecting them with the mansion's sewer system.



During a 1591 search, several priests stood up to their waists in water, hidden from searchers for four hours. In some cases, priests survived several searches of the same house.

Owen ran feeding tubes into the rooms, so that priests hidden therein could receive food for the days or weeks they might spend inside. Sometimes he built an easily-discovered outer hiding place which concealed an inner hiding place.

While Owen completed scores of hiding places, the exact number is unknown; some remained undiscovered until the twentieth century, and others still remain hidden. (Perhaps some of the ones that are still secret are being used to conceal handguns these days.)

So that the mansion's servants would not know about the hidden chambers, Owen would do ordinary house carpentry work during the daytime. But at night, Owen would build his secret spaces, always working alone—thus minimizing the number of persons who would know about a given hiding place, and be susceptible to revealing it under torture. Breaking through heavy stone walls to build complex rooms would have been difficult for any construction crew, but it was difficult in the extreme for a small man working alone. He always worked for

free, and received communion before starting a new project.

Nichola Owen used a variety of names to conceal his identity as he traveled around England—Little John, Little Michael, Andrewes, and Draper.

Owen was chosen as one of the first laypersons to be inducted in the Jesuit Order. When his fellow Jesuit Edward Campion was arrested, Owen spoke openly about Campion's innocence, so Owen himself was then arrested. He was arrested again in 1594, tortured on the infamous Topcliffe rack, and hung for three hours from iron rings, with heavy weights on his feet. But he revealed nothing, and was released after a wealthy Catholic paid a ransom. The English jailers who took the bribe to let Owen go thought he just an insignificant friend of a priest—rather than the master builder of England's underground railroad for priests.

Three years later, Owen masterminded Father John Gerard's escape from Tower of London.

In November 1605, Guy Fawkes and a small band of Catholic conspirators made plans to blow up Parliament, kill King James, and place James' Catholic daughter on the throne. The discovery of the Gunpowder Plot led to a massive crackdown on all suspected Catholics, which led to Owens' arrest in early 1606.

Owens had been secreted in one of his hiding places for two weeks, while pursuivants searched a Catholic home. But when he came out of hiding and attempted to sneak off the premises, he was captured. Immediately he claimed to be a priest—a claim which amounted to condemning himself to death, but which he hoped would throw the pursuivants off the trail of the priests who remained hidden in the building.

But this time, the English authorities knew that they had captured the one person who knew enough to bring down the entire network of covert Catholics in England.

At first, Owen was held under light confinement, with visitors allowed, in the hope that some secret priests would reveal themselves by coming to visit him. Owen, however, was too cautious to be tricked, and spent his time in solitary prayer.

Soon, Owen was transferred to the infamous Tower of London, so that he could be tortured. Yet he remained calm and fearless.

The English law of the time forbade torturing anyone to death. For this reason, any person who was already maimed (as Owen had been since the horse fell on him) was not supposed to be tortured at all, due to the risk of death. Nevertheless, Owen was tortured in a particularly gruesome manner, in light of

his already-ruptured hernia.

Nicholas Owen was racked for day after day; six hours at a time. And an iron band was tightened around his hernia.

While the reliability of confessions obtained under torture was dubious, England's law enforcement authorities never had a problem getting some kind of confession from a torture victim. Except for Nicholas Owen.

He refused to answer the interrogators' questions about anything important, and never revealed a single fact about any of his hiding places. Instead, he constantly invoked aid of Jesus and Mary.

Perhaps all the physical suffering which Owens had endured since the birth of his deformed body had helped him cope with tremendous levels of pain.

Owen died from the torture on March 2. Since Owen's treatment had been unconscionable even by the standards of the time, the government claimed that Owen had committed suicide by stabbing himself twice with a dinner knife. Actually, Owen's hands had been so disfigured by the torture that he could not even hold a pen or a knife, or feed himself.

In 1970, Nicholas Owen was canonized as a saint by the Catholic Church. His feast day is March 22, and he is counted as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and

Wales, from the time of the anti-Catholic persecutions.

Father John Gerard, one of England's leading secret priests, wrote that no one had accomplished more than Owen: "I verily think that no man can be said to have done more good for all those who laboured in the English vineyard. For, first, he was the immediate occasion of saving the lives of many hundreds of persons, both ecclesiastical and secular, and of the estates also of these seculars, which had been lost and forfeited many times over if the priests had been taken in their houses." (A hidden priest then, like illegal drugs or guns today, was cause for forfeiture of an entire home.) The modern edition of Butler's Lives of the Saints states, "Perhaps no single person contributed more to the preservation of the Catholic religion in England during penal times."

Regardless of whether one is a Catholic, a Protestant, or anything else, the decision of England's Catholics to maintain their faith, no matter how great the threats from the government, was highly admirable. The Catholic who illegally received communion, or otherwise resisted the government's effort to stamp out their religion, affirmed that the God and the individual were more important than the government. The survival of Catholicism in England, and

the failure of the Church of England to establish a complete monopoly of faith, helped sow the seeds for the long-run development of religious toleration in England, and in the rest of the Western world.

Whatever merits belong to other persons who, when offered the opportunity to partake of an illegal communion, or otherwise to defy an illegitimate suppression of religious freedom, flow from Owen's making it possible for the priests to exist in England.

Nicholas Owen was one of the pivotal figures of English history, and, indirectly, one of the fathers of modern religious freedom. He was not born to wealth or nobility or normality, and few people who stared at his small and twisted body would have predicted that he would be remembered as one of the greatest Englishmen of his time.

Further reading: Owen's biography is Blessed Nicholas Owen: Jesuit Brother and Maker of Hiding Holes, by Margaret Waugh. Published in 1959, the book is out of print and difficult to find in the United States. Owen is one of the major characters in Antonia Fraser's superb book Faith and Treason: The Story of the Gunpowder Plot.





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Knives for Home Defense

(My Home is My Castle, My Knife is My Sword)

by Michael Janich

OK, you've read the title of this article and I know what you're thinking... "If someone breaks into my house, I'm not going to waste my time with a knife. I'm going to shoot the SOB!" To save time and words and put this issue in proper perspective, let me say up front that, given the choice, I would also reach for a shotgun or handgun to defend my home before even considering a knife. Any reasonable person, given that option, would obviously do the same. Actually, if I had the luxury of choosing, I would prefer that the miscreant in question run out of gas on the way to my house so I could avoid the situation altogether.

The problem lies in the fact that you don't always have such a choice. When most people think of defending their home, they envision the typical "bump-in-the-night" scenario: They hear something strange in the house and quietly reach for the handgun in the nightstand drawer or the shotgun in the corner and prepare to do battle with the invader. If they're thinking, they quietly get the entire family into a secure room with a sturdy door and lock, hunker down with their firearm, call 911 and wait for the cavalry to arrive.



Polearms such as spears, halberds, or even mounted bayonets give you the advantage of distance and are particularly effective when employed in choke points. Here the author uses Cold Steel's new Warlord Chinese Sword, in reality a short halberd, to demonstrate an imposing defense from the top of a narrow stairwell.

Unfortunately, things aren't always so simple. It's quite possible that you won't be in your bedroom next to your firearm when trouble strikes. You might be napping on the couch, getting out of the shower, or doing any other normal daily activity when you suddenly realize that there is an unwelcome presence in the house with less than the best of intentions. What do you do then?

Of course one answer is to carry a firearm with you at all times when in your home. Sure, you'll never be caught unarmed, but you'll probably also never be able to walk around the house in sweats and a T-shirt again.

Another option is to stash a number of firearms in various locations around your house. With at least one gun in every room, you'll never be far from a weapon when you need one.

I have trouble with this tactic, however, since my house has 12 rooms if you count the bathrooms. Even if my local gun shop gave quantity discounts, it would still cost several thousand dollars to "arm" the average home or apartment. Furthermore, although I am a firm believer that education is the key to gun

safety, it still may be unwise (and in some states illegal) to leave firearms within easy reach of children.

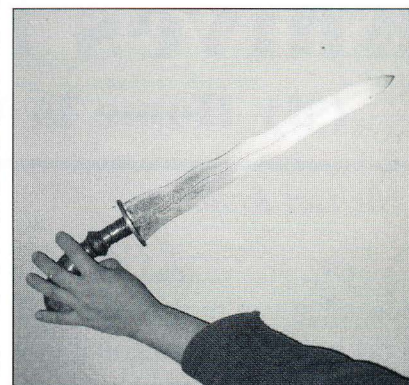
Finally, you may live in an area where firearms are simply not an option for personal or home defense. This was the case when I was living and traveling overseas and, as a foreigner, was forbidden to own a gun.

So what is the average home owner or apartment dweller to do to provide for his or her defense? I say, take a look at your latest cutlery catalog or hurry on down to the local knife shop. By shopping around a bit, you should have no trouble buying several good quality, combat-worthy knives for less than the price of a single firearm. If you're on a budget (and who isn't), gun shows and surplus stores are great sources of reasonably-priced military knives and bayonets. If money is really

a consideration, surplus stores and garden supply centers usually offer no-frills machetes for less than ten dollars a piece.

The objective here is to amass enough edged weapons to be able to place them in numerous discreet, but readily accessible locations around your house. This way, if an unwelcome presence is detected and your firearm is on the other side of the house, you can still effectively arm yourself, no matter where you might be.

The discreet placement of edged weapons around your home makes maintaining a normal domestic appearance relatively easy. However, if you enjoy collecting cutlery, you might consider integrating your home defense plan with your decorating scheme. In my home's decor, I have several large knives and swords displayed as "wall hangers."

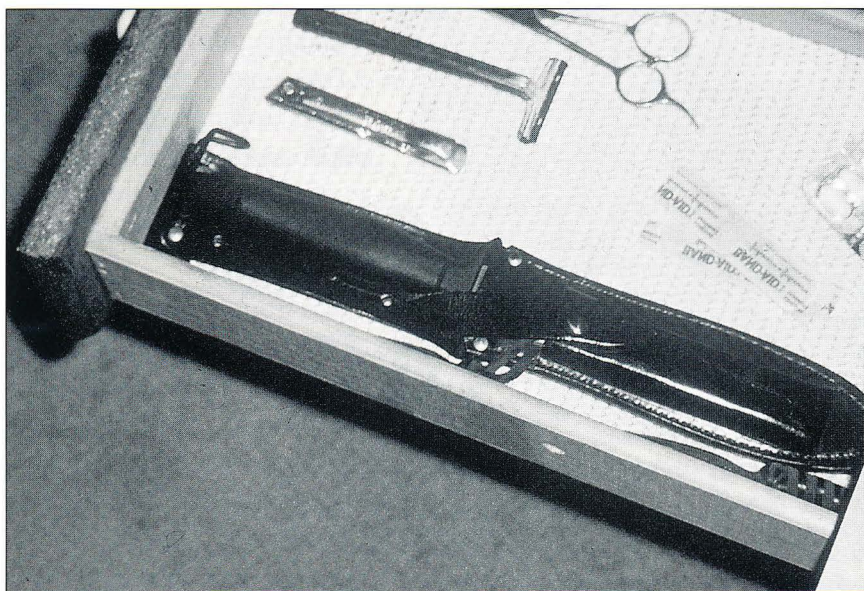


Depending upon your decorating scheme, home defense blades can also make nice decorations. This Filipino kris is maintained in combat-ready condition and can be instantly snatched off the wall if needed.

Though I find them aesthetically pleasing, they are also strategically placed for easy access and are maintained in combat-ready condition at all times.

Unlike personal defense knives for everyday carry, home defense cutlery favors large blades that not only make devastating weapons, but rank high on the intimidation scale as well. Among my favorites are kukris, Bowies, machetes, and bayonets. In addition to working extremely well as both offensive and defensive weapons, in many cases the mere sight of these big blades is enough to turn a would-be attacker's insides to jelly.

Large blades offer several other advantages in home defense. Besides cutting and thrusting, they can be used as fearsome impact weapons, striking with the back of the blade to bruise tissue or break bones, or slapping with the flat of the blade to stun an attacker. Large blades also give the defender the



Unlike firearms, knives are affordable enough so you can purchase one or more for each room in your home. Stashed in locations where they are discreet, yet accessible, they can ensure that you will never be far from a weapon.

advantage of distance, an important consideration when trying to repel intruders.

Of course having suitable home defense weapons is not enough. You must also develop the skill to wield them effectively. For large, single-edged blades such as kukris, machetes, and even some kitchen knives, I like a technique from the style of Filipino *escrima* called *de cuerdas*. To perform this technique, grip your knife in a standard grip and hold it point upward with your hand near your hip. Now, place the palm of your free hand against the back of the blade just above your knife hand. The free hand supports the back of the blade to form a strong shield which can be moved side to side and raised or lowered to defend against incoming attacks. To strike, the free hand pushes forward in concert with the knife hand, substantially increasing the power of the blow. After the strike is delivered, both hands immediately return to the guard position.

The *de cuerdas* technique is easily learned and very effective, even in cramped indoor spaces. Nevertheless, I strongly recommend that anyone who chooses knives as defensive tools seek out qualified personal instruction in a knife-based martial art to enhance their skills.

Just as important as technique are the tactics of home defense. Practice and experimentation will teach you which angles of your floor plan work to your favor. They will also help you discover which obstacles in your home provide protection

against an attacker while allowing you to deliver strikes of your own. In World War II, bolo-armed Filipinos used an *escrima* tactic called *lastico*, or rubber band, to ambush Japanese soldiers in the jungle. They would hide amidst a tangle of vines, strike out at a critical moment, then retreat to the protection of the vines again. This same tactic works equally well when delivered through a doorway or over a counter.

A similar use of this tactic, and another possible weapon choice for home defense, involves a pole arm such as a spear. In a natural choke point such as a stairwell, the defender can take advantage of the cover of the stairs and the range of the spear to keep his attacker at bay. Modern spears with effective cutting edges such as those made by Cold Steel are excellent for this purpose and inexpensive

enough so you can afford several. In ancient Japan, the traditional home defense weapon, and the traditional weapon of Japanese women, was the *naginata*, or halberd. Consisting of a staff with a scimitar-shaped blade at the end, it could be used for both thrusting and cutting and was a very formidable home defense weapon. Cold Steel's new Warlord Chinese Sword is compact, modern adaptation of this concept. Its razor-sharp blade can sever seven free-hanging one-inch manila ropes with a single stroke and is one of the most fearsome and intimidating home defense tools I have ever seen.

Finally, throwing knives, tomahawks, and other edged projectile weapons can be an excellent addition to your home defense arsenal by again giving you the advantage of distance. When I lived in Bangkok, I



Knives are an excellent and affordable means of bolstering your home defense arsenal. The author's bedside companions include a Glock Model 20 in 10mm and a Cold Steel LTC Kukri.



Use your floorplan to your advantage when defending against intruders. Here a short wall between two staircases is used as an obstacle while cautiously checking out a suspicious noise from below. The wall makes effective cover, while the length of the weapon still allows blows to be struck over the top.

bought several small hand axes and progressively shortened their handles until they threw perfectly at the across-the-room ranges of my apartment. I did not count on these to immediately stop an attacker, but intended them as a means of delaying an assault while I accessed a more formidable weapon. Although many "experts" claim that throwing knives are useless in a defensive situation, when you have the luxury of picking the distances and angles at which to throw, such as in a home defense scenario, they can be extremely effective. As for the belief that throwing a knife merely arms your attacker, again, the objective is to use the time you buy by throwing a weapon to transition to a better weapon and/or maneuver to a better tactical position.

Home defense is a serious issue and one that everyone should plan for carefully and realistically. In today's world, a handgun in the nightstand simply isn't enough. Examine your personal needs and your budget and you may find that edged weapons are an effective and economical way of completing your home defense plan.

For information on Cold Steel knives, spears, and the Warlord Chinese Sword, contact:

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On the 31st of November, 1998, the second part of the Brady Bill went into effect. This is a piece of gun control legislation passed four years earlier with the blessings of Bill and Hillary Clinton, Sarah Brady and her husband of course, the man the bill was named after, former press secretary for President Reagan, James Brady. Passed under the guise of fighting crime and keeping guns out of the "wrong hands," the sponsors and proponents of the Brady Bill were clever and calculating enough to have bits and pieces of the law kick in at different stages, kind of like a time-released cold capsule.

The reason for this is as sinister as it is obvious and that is to prevent those forces who would oppose their agenda of disarming the American citizen from mounting an effective defense of the Second Amendment. If they pass any one piece of gun control legislation that is too sweeping or oppressive at any given time, there would be too much opposition from gun owners.

Even the good old boys who hunt ducks and deer and sneer at the "Black Rifle Culture" would be up in arms over having to undergo a rectal exam before they could buy their hunting rifles and shotguns. By first singling out potential handgun owners they managed to sidestep any opposition from the more traditional hunting part of the gun culture. Now four years later, all firearms are subject to a federal background check and approval, and it is too late for the surprised and outraged hunters to do anything about it. It is already law and has been for four years.

The basic yet brilliant principle of divide and conquer that was perfected by Alexander the Great has not been lost on today's fascists and totalitarians. Each blow from their the chisel that chips away yet another piece from the monolith of freedom is defended as a "reasonable" and "small price to pay" for keeping guns out of the hands of criminals.

Anyone who opposes such "reasonable" measures on either practical or constitutional grounds is quickly smeared by their hatchet men as an extremist, arch conservative, right wing reactionary, out of touch with

the American people-whatever that means-or in the pocket of the all mighty and powerful gun lobby. Time and time again the gun grabbers will default on defending their position with reason, logic and facts, but will fall back to their favorite tactic of knee jerk emotionalism and gut wrenching hysteria that usually takes the form of parading shooting victims and their relatives in front of the camera.

The first part of the Brady Bill mandates that every federally licensed firearms dealer run a background check with federal law enforcement on every prospective individual who wants to purchase a handgun. Only after the authorities deemed that whatever was on the person's record did not prohibit them from owning a handgun, they would issue the dealer an authorization number, in essence giving them permission to make the sale.

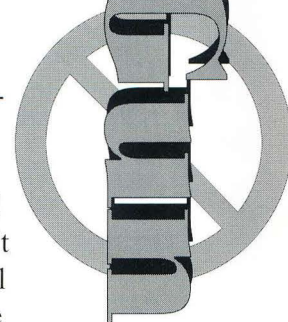
Any dealer caught selling a handgun without running this background check and getting the thumbs up sign from the long arm of the law was committing a felony and subject to criminal prosecution. The rationale at the time was that because handguns were so easily concealable and therefore prone to criminal use, it was necessary to have the Feds check for a criminal history on anyone wanting to purchase such a weapon.

Four years later -present day- a prospective purchaser must be subject to a background check for **ALL FIREARMS**. That's right, a bolt-action single-shot .22 rifle, a three shot pump action shotgun, a Colt Third Generation Single Action revolver - it doesn't matter. If it shoots, you must get the approval of Uncle Sam before you can buy it. The one and only exception to this is the same group of firearms that mysteriously escaped the broad brush of the 1968 Gun Control Act and those are black powder, muzzle loading guns.

Apparently the problem of long guns, which includes the dreaded assault rifles, was not that urgent where it couldn't wait four years before it was enacted. The erosion of freedom in this country however gradual is a one-way street. Those who would take our freedoms away from us have all the time in the world. Unfortunately we do not.

Since the passage of the bill four years

The Great Gun Grab



ago (and 26 years prior to that), until November 31, 1998, anyone could purchase a long gun (rifle or shotgun) simply by properly filling out the 4473 federal form which was the creation of the 1968 Gun Control Act and presenting proper identification. For 218 years preceding that, anyone who had the money could buy a gun. (Government enforced laws prohibiting black people from firearms ownership under the guise of "Saturday Night Special" laws excluded). [Editor's note: *This will be the subject of a future Partisan article.*]

Amazingly enough, in all that time our Republic and our way of life did not perish. Blood did not flow in the streets and a rash of lunacy and mayhem did not ravage the land. Wars have

been fought on American soil in that time, but wars are the by products of governments and not guns.

The FBI, which now has the jurisdiction and responsibility for running the check, claims that it is not keeping records of those buying guns, but anyone with the most elementary understanding or experience with computers knows how incredibly easy it is to save information. Keep in mind that the search itself is of course done on a computer. Saving the information of each search is just as easy as not.

In the information age, information is a valuable commodity, not likely to be discarded once it is obtained. Especially by a federal police agency whose very business is collecting information.

Look at the length supermarkets go through to get you to use a "saver card" of some sort each time you buy groceries so that they can compile a consumer profile on you to sell to various companies down the road.

When we look back to the civil liberty abuses the FBI committed during the reign of J. Edgar Hoover and beyond, up to and including Waco, they are not exactly a pillar of credibility whose assurances that they are not keeping records of gun purchasers we can bank on.

As is often the case, the unintended consequences of a particular piece of legislation is exactly the opposite of what its original intention was. In this case the Brady Bill has driven many gun purchasers away from legiti-

President Clinton, James Brady and a hand-picked, politically reliable police chief pose for a photo op to further perpetuate the falsehood that the rank and file of law enforcement support their agenda to disarm American citizens.

(AP Photo)



mate federally licensed dealers and into the murky waters of private sales, gun shows, flea markets, classified ads in the local paper and a friend of a friend's cousin in the parking lot. The net result of the Brady Bill has been less, not more accountability on the part of those purchasing guns.

The non licensed gun trade which always existed has now grown exponentially and will continue to grow as gun buyers affronted with the new Big Brother regulations seek to maintain some semblance of their privacy. There is no question that the government will move to solve

this new problem which they created in the first place with yet more restrictive and unconstitutional legislation.

President Clinton wasted no time in his radio address when he announced that he had asked his attorney general, Janet Reno, to draft the wording for an executive order he will issue that will ban private gun sales. Describing gun shows as "arms bazaars for criminal activity" and stressing the need to close the loopholes in the law, Clinton stressed the need to eliminate private gun sales.

Once these laws, or more accurately, these edicts are enacted and enforced they will create a new criminal class of what heretofore were law-abiding citizens. Those people who feel that what they purchase is not subject to the knowledge or approval of Big Brother will now be criminals. Those people who take the Second Amendment seriously and view asking the government's permission as an infringement of

their right to keep and bear arms will be a criminal. The father who chooses to carry on a family tradition of buying a gun for his son's birthday and fails to get the government's permission will be a criminal. The auto mechanic who takes a Winchester .30-30 in trade on

a transmission without filling out the right paper work will be a criminal.

Any gun sale from party A to party B will have to be done through a federally licensed gun dealer so a background check can be made and a paper trail can be created. This will include husband to wife, father to son, and the relatives of dead loved ones inheriting their guns.

Eventually they will argue that they do not have the manpower or resources to police and monitor the thousands of gun shows that take place across America every year to verify that everyone buying and selling guns are doing it through a licensed dealer and creating the required paper trail. Consequently they will outlaw gun shows. It is only a matter of time and a logical next step if you follow the progression of their arguments.

Already legislation (HR 109) has been introduced by Chicago Congressman Rod Blagojevich (D-IL) that would impose absurd and nightmarish demands and controls on gun show operators. These new edicts would include but not be limited to requiring the gun show operator to fill out an application, pay an as of yet unspecified fee and obtain a license from the federal government. Thirty days after the show he or she would have to hand over copies of every single firearms transaction and all of the proper documents and records thereof including the names, addresses and ID numbers for all of the purchasers or intended purchasers as well as their approval or denial numbers.

Add this to the already insanely high cost of insurance for



The inevitable consequence when civilians are unable to defend themselves.



It appears that your papers are not in order....,could this be the next step?

gun shows, coupled with the inability for private parties to buy or sell guns at shows, and you see how the noose is slowly being tightened around the neck of gun shows in America. If these regulations don't choke the economic lifeblood out of the shows, then the heavy hammer of the state will follow.

The unfortunate and disgraceful thing is that many in the gun industry including a fair number of NAFLFD (National Association of Federally Licensed Firearm Dealers) members and established businesses and stores, will support this legislation because in their greed and short-

sightedness they will see this as more money in their pockets because people will have no choice but to use their services to buy and sell their own guns. Just as they supported the Clinton administration's crackdown on "basement" dealers, which were federally licensed firearms dealers who sold guns either exclusively at gun shows or out of their home.

Those in the industry will not give priority to the fact that this will amount to a major loss of freedom and individual privacy. They will see it rather as a new and easy way to make a quick buck at the expense of those people who have been "unfairly"

competing with them all these years-the unlicensed gun dealers.

Count on the Senator elect from New York, Charles "Shmuck" Schumer to flex his newly gained political muscle by leading the charge.

This is all coming down after the Clinton Administration has come very close to reaching its goal of reducing the number of FFLs in the country by 90 percent from 250,000 to 25,000. They are almost there. The current number of FFLs stands at about 50,000. This has been achieved mainly by strong arm tactics of threats and intimidation of which I have personal experience.



(AP Photo)

From left to right, Attorney General "Janet the butcher of Waco" Reno, Bill "the Rapist" Clinton, Al "the bag man" Gore, Sarah "Ms. six figure paid lobbyist for HCI" Brady, and James "not only am I crippled and slow, but I'm married to this insufferable bitch" Brady all gloat as they get the word that congress just passed the Brady Bill.

A few days before Mount Carmel was burned to the ground at Waco, Texas the BATF came to my home and demanded that I surrender my FFL. The details of that episode will be discussed in a future issue of *The Partisan*.

Now that the number of FFLs in the country has been reduced to a "manageable" number, they can funnel all of the country's gun sales into this shrinking conduit. With the elimination of private gun sales soon to follow, it will be that much easier for them to monitor, record and

watch all those involved in buying and selling guns. When the time comes, it will be that much easier to confiscate them.

If you accept the faulty premise Clinton used in getting the Brady Bill passed which was that criminals get their guns from licensed gun dealers, then it is perfectly logical to take his argument one step forward by putting teeth into the Brady Bill. The Brady Bill, they argue will continue to be made a mockery of until we can close the loopholes or avenues by which people can purchase guns privately, thusly avoiding the background check.

No one bothers to point out a few minor details such as the fact that this is unconstitutional, it would deprive American citizens of their fundamental

right to trade freely with others and go about their business without the heavy handed intrusiveness of the federal government.

The bottom line is that gun ownership in the United States is a right and not a privilege. This is clearly recognized by the Second Amendment which says that "...the right of the people to keep and bear arms

shall not be infringed." You need not ask anyone's permission to exercise a right, only a privilege. By passing and enforcing laws that require the permission of the federal government before you can own property, owning property is no longer a right but has been reduced to a privilege which can be revoked at any time by the whim of the very same government bureaucrats that gave you permission to own it in the first place.

Expect *60 Minutes* or *20/20* or any of the other network Clinton apologist shows to get one of their reporters to buy a gun at a gun show or through the newspaper with cash and a handshake. They will sensationalize it by "**EXPOSING**" how it easy it is for criminals to obtain guns. They will demand that something be done about this outrageous situation now, emphasizing how lives are being lost every minute that this situation continues. If even one life is saved, they will argue, then it is worth whatever infringements or loss of freedom that "we" as a society have to endure. Certainly no "reasonable" person could object to such safeguards, they will argue, if it will help prevent injury and death.

The Clinton administration will get CEOs from within the firearms industry - who undoubtedly enjoy juicy law enforcement sales and government contracts - and politically appointed police chiefs to endorse the proposed "moderate" and "sensible" legislation that will after all save so many lives.

They will argue they are not restricting "honest and law-abiding" people's right to own guns. They are simply making



Nazi troops conducted random search and harassment of citizens. Are we headed in the same direction?



Aftermath of Crystal Night - or the Night of Broken Glass. Nazi storm troopers attacked, beat-up, and murdered Jewish shopkeepers and destroyed their businesses. Could the same thing be in store for gunshop owners?

everybody do their "fair share" subjecting them to a slight inconvenience and the "appropriate" fee to ensure that criminals don't get guns. People with nothing to hide or fear from the government, they will argue, should have no problem being investigated by the government.

This is of course the same argument the Clinton Administration made in Chicago when they demanded that residents of state subsidized housing projects surrender their Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable search and seizure and allow DEA agents and other police agencies to enter and search their homes, seize their property and make arrests without warrants or due process. This unconstitutional and clearly fascist means is to justify the "noble and lofty" ends of the administration's war on drugs. Oddly enough, that

is the very same holy crusade that drug czar William Bennett used to justify the first "assault rifle" ban he instituted under the administration of George"read my lips" Bush

If all of this does not achieve their ultimate goal of eliminating private gun ownership in America, they always have their trump card to play-the lawyers. Like a pack of sharks smelling blood in the water from a wounded animal, the high priests of the new American religion of litigation have begun to circle the embattled gun industry.

Coming in fresh from their kill of the American tobacco industry, the lawyers have successfully argued their case in front of brain dead, intellectual midgets that individuals are not responsible for their own actions, but corporations are. While the jackals

are still fighting over the multibillion dollar carcasses of R.J. Reynolds and Phillip Morris they have turned their sights on the gun industry. Having already destroyed the notion of individual responsibility, they have in effect declared open season on the manufacturer of any product whose use or abuse may result in injury or death.

Combine that with an industry that is already being vilainized by the government, the press and Hollywood's elite and you've got a stacked deck before the trial begins. The plaintiffs are a combination of government officials and relatives of victims of shootings.

This two-pronged assault against the gun industry is being spearheaded by Chicago Mayor Richard Daley Jr., the son of Richard Daley, arguably the most corrupt and vile politician of the

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20th century, the man who came to epitomize the crooked inner city Democratic machine and by use of voter fraud in Chicago swung the 1960 Presidential election for John Kennedy.

Daley filed a \$433 million dollar lawsuit on November 12, 1998, in Cook County Circuit Court charging that gun makers and dealers violated public nuisance laws by knowingly designing, marketing and distributing firearms so that they fall into the hands of the city's criminals. "The Second Amendment doesn't allow these types of weapons in our communities," Daley said. The city described its suit as a national test case and named 22 manufacturers, four distributors and 12 retailers as defendants.

Similar suits have already been filed by the cities of New Orleans, Bridgeport, CT., and Atlanta. Ironically, the SHOT show, the main trade show of the firearms industry, was recently held in Atlanta. I am glad to say that I and many other distributors, manufacturers and retailers boycotted the show because of its location.

Are these people completely out of their minds? Do they really think that the engineers at Colt sit in front of their computer screens or drafting tables and say, "Hmm, now how do we design a gun that has the best chance of falling into the hands of criminals?" I've yet to see Smith & Wesson make an ad with some gang banger in an Oakland Raider jacket holding a 5906 9mm pistol up sideways, saying, "Was up, was up? For your next drive by in the hood you best be packin one a dees."

The unbelievable tragedy

is that these frivolous lawsuits which have reached the zenith of absurdity have already bore fruit. On February 12, 1999, a New York jury found nine gun manufacturers liable for shootings with illegally obtained handguns because of their negligent marketing and distribution practices. They specifically found that the gun makers' distribution methods "foster illegal gun trafficking" from states with weak gun laws to those with strict gun laws like New York.

This reasoning is already laying the groundwork for the next round of "reasonable" gun laws. They will argue that because states with strict gun laws are subverted by states with weak gun laws, we need to have the gun laws mandated and enforced by the federal government, thus ending the disparity between the states and putting an end to the lucrative domestic gun smuggling trade. The only thing they'll have to work on is a way to get around that pesky Second Amendment.

The jurors decided that nine gun manufactures were collectively liable for the shootings because their business practices were a "proximate cause" of the shootings. The lawsuits covered seven different shootings and even though nine different companies were found liable only one gun was found in all seven shootings. Elisa Barnes chief lawyer for the plaintiffs told the jury that this "simply doesn't matter." Beyond belief.

In essence even though we have no idea whether a gun you made was used to shoot my client or not, we're holding you responsible because we feel that you haven't done enough to ensure

that the thousands of guns that you make every year are sold to the "right" people. The lunatics are indeed running the asylum.

In essence, this is no different than some thief stealing a car and plowing into a crowd of innocent school children in his attempt to flee from the police. When the police arrest him they find that there is an empty bottle of Jack Daniels on the seat of the stolen Ford Mercury. Instead of holding the individual responsible for his actions, a team of lawyers decides to sue Ford and Jack Daniels whiskey because neither Ford nor the distiller made satisfactory efforts to safeguard that their products would not be misused.

So where does that leave us? We see Bill Clinton, the President of the United States, commit numerous felonies and get acquitted. We see how Attorney General Janet Reno refuses to investigate the illegal fund raising activities of Al Gore, who along with Clinton sold the most vital and sensitive U.S. missile technology to the Communist Chinese. We see Colt, Smith & Wesson, Sturm Ruger and some of the other finest manufacturers of firearms in the world-companies that are a part of the very fabric and history of this country, held liable for the actions of a bunch of criminals stoned out of their minds on crack killing some innocent kid for his sports jacket.


We see the relentless attack against the Constitution of the United States and the rule of law. We see how the attack has focused on the lynch pin of the Bill of Rights, the Second Amendment-the clause that acknowledges our rights as human

beings and Americans to keep and bear arms-to defend us against the kind of tyranny that King George, Bill Clinton or anyone else would inflict upon us if left unchecked.

We see how the forces of government, the media and the courtroom mercenaries have turned up the heat in their war against not just guns, but the gun

culture, a way of life and a heritage that is distinctly American. We see how this gun culture, which we are proudly and passionately a part of, has systematically become demonized, marginalized and vilified.

Like the Jews in Germany we are finding ourselves attacked in the press, attacked in the mar-

ketplace, attacked in the classroom, attacked in the courtroom and attacked from the pulpit of government. Unlike the Jews in Germany, however, gun owners in America own guns. Let's not ever forget that. Let's hope they don't push us to the point where we have to make sure they don't forget it either. 

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Humping The Load

by U.B. Reddy

The South African Load Bearing Vest

Prior to Nelson Mandela's ascension to power in South Africa the white minority that governed this nation on the southern tip of the African continent was besieged by hostile Marxist governments on its borders as well as an internal insurgency movement. Universally condemned by the United Nations and world public opinion, the government of South Africa, like Israel, was forced to develop its own arms industry due to the international boycott that prevented it from obtaining arms and military equipment from abroad.

Like Israel, the unintended consequences of such a boycott resulted in the creation of a vast, home-grown, state-of-the-art arms conglomerate that not only satisfied domestic requirements but became a major player in the international arms market, ironically exporting weapons and equipment to nations previously unwilling to sell to them. Not too surprisingly, Israel and South Africa jointly developed many weapons systems and granted licenses to each other to manufacture such weapons in each other's countries. A prime example of this is the South African R4 rifle, which is a slightly refined version of the Israeli Galil (the subject of a review in an upcoming issue of *The Partisan*).

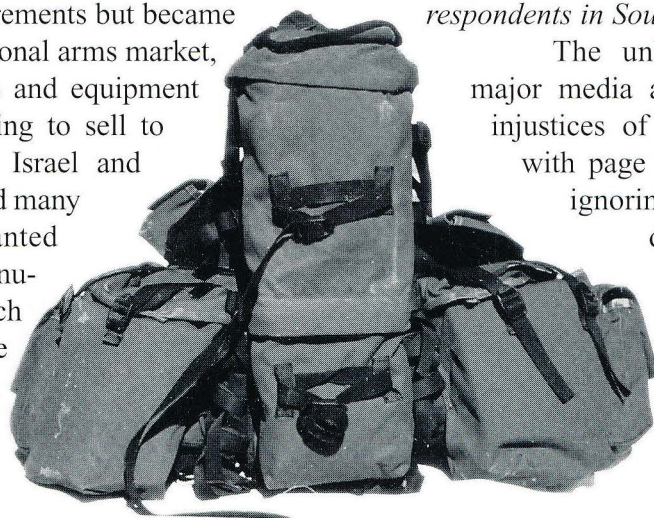
Also like Israel, South Africa, standing alone and surrounded by enemies generously supplied with weapons and equipment from what used to be the Communist block took their guns and gear quite seriously. Launching numerous cross-border incursions into Angola, Mozambique, Southwest Africa and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), not to mention the daily grind of providing security within, the South African Defense Forces (SADF) were not playing war games but were playing for keeps.

Consequently, what didn't work was quickly discarded and what did work was constantly refined and upgraded to the point where the weapons and equipment of the SADF were second to no army in the world including that of the United States.

All of this will most likely become no more than a footnote in the history of the regional conflicts fought around the globe by proxy during the Cold War. As this issue of *The Partisan* goes to press the exodus of white South Africans continues to flood the country. The bloodshed, rape, murder and lawlessness that is the root cause of this mass migration continues unabated.

[Editor's note: Watch for future stories from our correspondents in South Africa]

The unbelievable hypocrisy of the major media all too willing to expose the injustices of Apartheid -and rightfully so- with page one stories and now virtually ignoring the bloodshed, death and destruction of the same nation at the hands of a black Marxist ruler is all too typical. The frying pan to the fire ordeal of the people of South Africa going from Apartheid to Marxism will have to be judged by history. The only



The South African LBV as seen from behind. Note all of the straps for lashing on additional gear.

truly positive consequence of Nelson Mandela's rise to power

is the lifting of the trade sanctions imposed on South Africa and the goodies that have started to trickle in to the American market.

As any grunt knows, the quality of life of the foot soldier is directly proportional to the quality of his or her gear. On patrol in the African bush, or protecting a retreat in the Colorado Rockies, or guarding a retail business in downtown Los Angeles, an armed individual must carry as a bare minimum, extra ammu-

nutrition, food, water, communications equipment and first aid. The load-bearing vest or (LBV) is the choice of elite military units and SWAT type police organizations for this purpose. The LBV used by the SADF is the end product of some very high tech materials and hard-won wisdom learned in the African bush. This fine piece of gear is now available on the surplus scene for less than \$100 in very good to excellent condition.

The first thing to keep in mind when looking at LBVs is to understand what they are designed to do, and perhaps just as important, what they are **not** designed to do. A LBV is not a backpack. It is not designed to carry a lot of clothing and equipment for extended forays into the bush. Typically a person wearing a LBV is not more than a day's hike from resupply. If you are going into the back country for a few days and nights and will be carrying typical gear like a sleeping bag, ground pad, tent, stove, extra clothing, food, water, fuel, toiletries, etc., you need a backpack and not a LBV.

The LBV is designed to carry everything that a fighting man needs to supplement his primary weapon,

which is usually a rifle. The LBV is designed to comfortably and efficiently carry that which a soldier needs immediately to carry him through battle. These would be extra rounds of ammunition already loaded in magazines, grenades, a first aid kit, binoculars, field radio (walkie talkie), food, water, a compass and survival kit. Everything else would be considered secondary and not of critical importance.

Every army that has marched into battle in this century - and many before that have all been issued with some sort of load-bearing equipment. At first most soldiers carried extra ammunition and essentials on their belts. When you add up the weight of bullets, water, knives and bayonets and other gear that needs to be instantly accessible, it becomes easy to see how belts alone were not well-suited for the task, or at very least not very comfortable.

Originally the idea of a load-bearing system was nothing more than a strap that attached to the belt and ran over the wearer's shoulder in an effort to distribute the weight of the soldier's gear over his shoulder, relieving some of the strain on his waist. One strap

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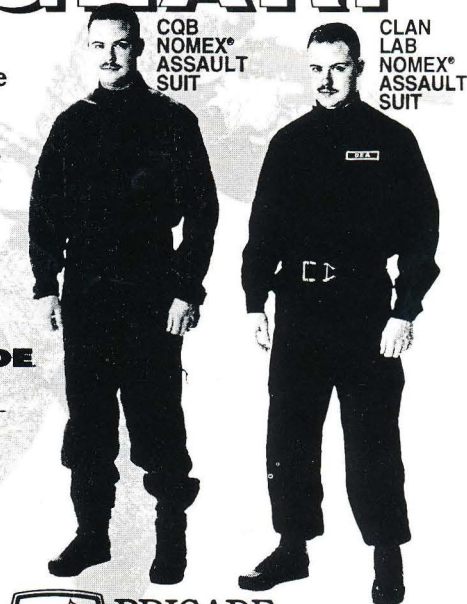
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quickly became two straps running over both shoulders. This simple concept proved to be quite sound and by the time of the First World War, virtually every army used this basic concept, with many different types and styles all made of cotton canvas webbing or leather that attached to the basic combat or web belt.

As weapons changed so did the specs and specifics of the LBVs used in combat, but essentially they remained pretty much the same. Shoulder straps widened to distribute the weight of the load over greater surface areas, and wool felt or cotton padding was added. The points of attachment to the belt also increased. Sewn webbing was replaced by detachable metal clips for increased versatility and Y patterns in the back were switched with H patterns and visa versa.

It was not until after the Second World War that load bearing equipment began to change radically. This was due mostly to the fact that the standard infantry weapon was now a semi or fully automatic rifle that used detachable box magazines. These box magazines needed larger pouches to accommodate them, and as grenades, optics, field radios and other useful items became standard issue to soldiers, the concept of a more fully integrated system evolved.

Instead of a harness that would simply support a belt, it was reasoned that the harness itself could be part of the system that carried the soldier's gear. This, combined with stronger and lighter materials such as nylon instead of cotton and the addition of foam padding, dramatically increased the comfort and overall effectiveness of the troops.

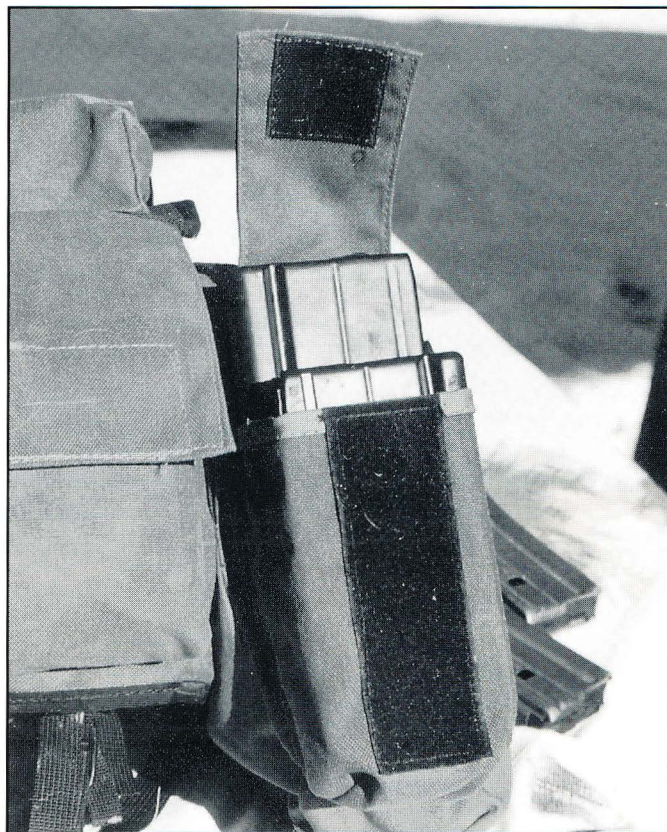
I was in Israel in 1976, three years after the Yom Kippur War. I was talking with an Israeli soldier about his experiences on the Golan Heights during the war, and all he could talk about was how the Israeli soldiers fought each other over the captured Syrian LBV web gear. It was far superior to anything they had at the time. These seemingly small creature comforts were not lost on these battle-hardened Israeli veterans of the Golani Brigade. A few years later the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) would be issued with superlative LBV web gear which was just recently improved. *[Expect to see a review of this gear in a future issue of The Partisan].*

Which brings us back to the South African LBV which not too surprisingly shares some of the fine features of the Israeli LBV gear. The vest is comprised of three sections which are attached to each other by a series of 3/4 inch black nylon straps fully adjustable with Fastex style plastic buckles. There is the main section that covers the back, the left side and the right side.

Each section is constructed of a black nylon mesh that is filled with 1/4 inch of breathable foam. The exception to this are the shoulder pads, which are attached to the main section and are generously filled with about half an inch of the breathable foam. Clearly the shoulders will bear the brunt of the load, and beefing up this area with extra padding makes excellent sense.

This foam, however, serves a dual purpose. The first and most obvious is to cushion the body from the shock, pain and fatigue that invariably result from the running, rolling and jolting that occurs when the body is in motion with such a hard and heavy load. Secondly, the breathable foam allows air to flow between your body and the load reducing perspiration and the risk of overheating.

The main section of the vest which again hugs the back is 18 inches long and six inches wide. The shoulder pads which begin below the shoulder blades in the back and extend over the pectoral muscles in the front are 16 inches long and 2-1/2 inches wide. There is one large pocket attached to back of the vest that is divided in two separate zippered compartments. The top compartment is about twice the size of the bottom one and has a velcro secured flap on top of a rectangular



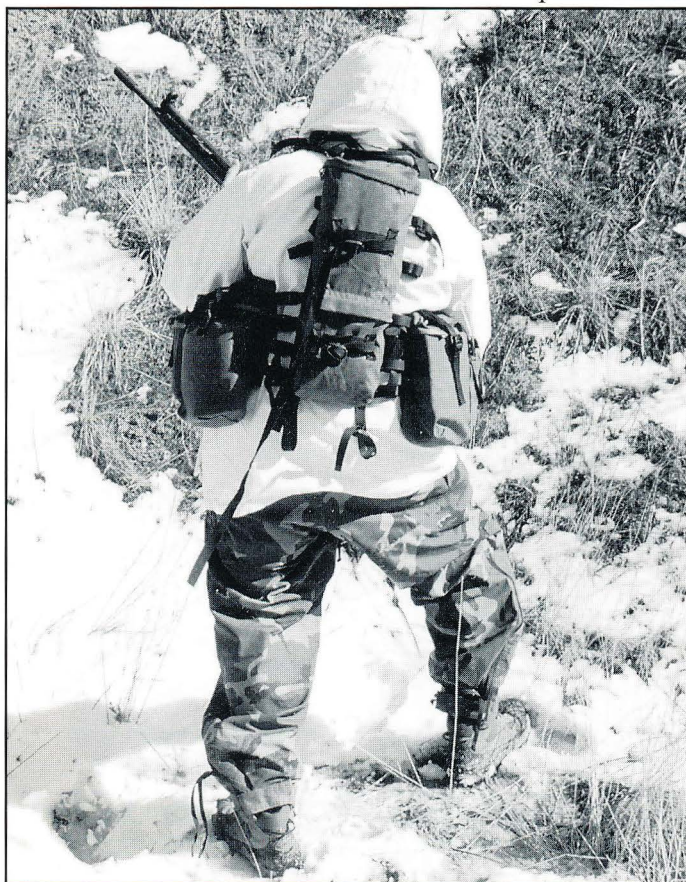
Shown are two 20rd FN FAL magazines inserted into the mag pouch on the vest. AR-15, M-16 mags in background will also easily fit.

cutout presumably for the antenna of a radio. This pocket and unique feature could very nicely be used to accommodate a Camelback drinking bladder and plastic drink tube.

These pockets, like all of the compartments and pockets of the vest are made of a waterproof polyurethane-coated 16 ounce Cordura nylon. This material is incredibly strong, yet supple, lightweight and quiet. There are four lash straps of the same 3/4 inch black nylon webbing bar-tacked on to the back of the pockets to accommodate the lashing on of additional gear or branches of local flora to enhance one's camouflage.

The two side compartments of the vest are 13 inches long by 7 inches wide. These compartments are attached to the bottom of the main compartment by four fully adjustable black nylon straps. The left side has one main pocket about 6 X 9 X 2 1/2 which like the main pocket in the back, has a rectangular hole on the top cover with a Velcro flap. This pocket cover is secured with two nylon straps and corresponding buckles.

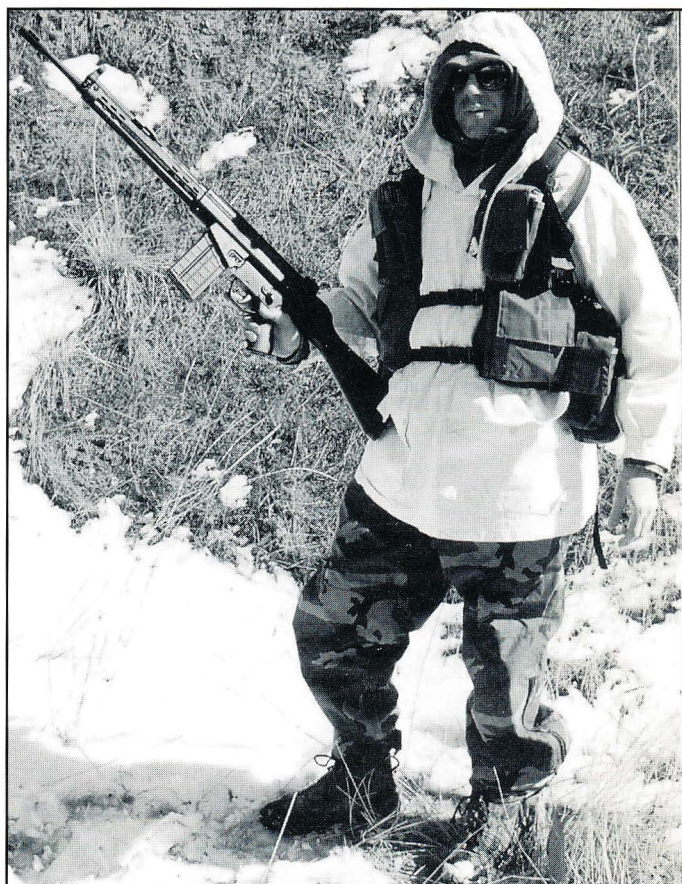
Attached to the side of the main pocket is a



Rear view of the South African LBV. Notice how the design allows for unincumbered movement of the shoulders.

smaller pocket with an internal divider and a long Velcro tongue which acts as a flap closure. This pocket is the magazine pouch and will accommodate, albeit snugly, two 20 round FN FAL magazines which understandably is what the SADF was using at the time this LBV was developed. There are a total of four such magazine pouches on the vest which will hold a total of eight FAL mags or any similar mag such as that of the H&K 91 or the M-14. Interestingly enough, these pockets will easily and very securely also hold standard 30-round U.S. military issue M-16 or AR-15 magazines. They will also hold similar sized magazines for the Ruger Mini-14. Unfortunately they will not fit AK-47 mags, 35 round .223 Galil mags, .308 Galil mags or any other odd size magazine.

Right next to the main pocket on the left side is another pocket about half its size which is secured with an oversize Velcro flap. Immediately above this pocket is a much smaller pocket with a similar flap closure just about big enough to hold a grenade. Attached to the side of this pocket and sewn into the left shoulder strap is another magazine pouch identical to the one just



Snug and comfortable against the body, this man is ready for action with his South African LBV and FA-91 rifle.

described. There is a pen or pencil pouch, sewn into the side of this pouch as is there one on its twin sewn into the right shoulder strap.

There is a hidden map or stash pocket on the back side of the lower main pocket that measures 7X9. This pocket is accessible through a Velcro closure on the inner side of the vest that is not obvious to anyone not familiar with the vest. Some of the vests we tested actually had SADF military maps in them. This would be an ideal hideaway pocket for any valuables that one would not want discovered during a perfunctory search.

The pouch configuration on the right side of the vest is identical to the one on the left with two differences. The main pocket is flanked by two smaller pockets as opposed to one smaller pocket on the left side. The size of the two smaller pockets on the right side are about half the size of the corresponding pocket on the left side. Also there is no hidden map pocket.

The front two sections of the vest are secured by two nylon straps with quick-release Fastex type buckles. The entire vest is adorned with long lengths of nylon straps and buckles bar-tacked into the body of the vest enabling the wearer to attach extra gear in a pinch, branches for concealment or any other feat of improvisation that may arise in battle.

There is clearly ample room in the pockets of this vest to carry eight magazines of 160 rounds of .308 ammunition or 240 rounds of .223 ammo, two grenades plus an array of food, water (including a Camelback system), communications equipment (including a protected hole for the antenna), a GPS system, map, compass, first aid kit, survival kit, and perhaps even a Gore-tex wind breaker or thin wool sweater. If one wanted to lash extra gear to the vest, which is made very easy by the multitude of lash straps provided, an overnight foray or even an extended adventure is possible.

The vest is extremely adjustable and can be worn just as comfortably over heavily padded winter clothing, thick body armor or a simple T-shirt.

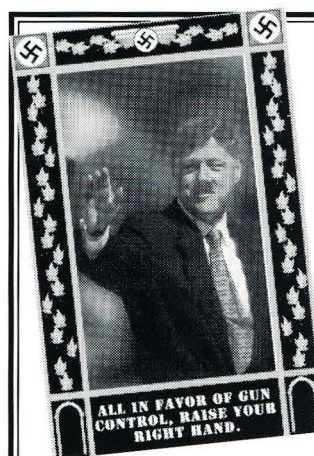
The vest comes in two colors - a South African version of olive drab, which is really more of a mix between forest green and olive, and a dark tan almost light brown. The latter color seems to be more prevalent but the green vest can be found. The quality of the stitching is first rate and all of the stress points are bar-tacked for that extra measure of security.

Loaded up with about 18 lbs. of equipment, I went on an eight mile hike with my dogs and came back a true believer. Not only was the vest snug and comfortable, but all of the front packets were easily accessi-

ble. My one criticism of the vest is that the 20 round FN FAL mags fit perhaps a little too snug. Trying to pull one out in the middle of a firefight with sweaty fingers as the adrenaline is surging through your veins might prove to be more of a challenge than one would like. No such problem was experienced with the .223 mags.

Overall condition of the vests which we received from a variety of military surplus wholesalers was quite good. There was an occasional tear that had been expertly repaired but most of the vests were perfect if not a little dirty. A good scrubbing with a stiff brush in warm water and detergent would not be a bad idea.

This South African load bearing vest is a very specialized piece of equipment and, quite frankly, I cannot see much of a use for it other than what its designers had in mind, and that is for an infantryman to fight a war. Let us hope that we are successful in our efforts to regain our freedom without ever having to use such equipment. But one can take some solace in knowing that if that dreadful day ever comes, we can take to the hills or the street, in style with a souvenir from a story whos last chapter has yet to be written.



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The Sham Trial

by Bob Glass

A very strange trial recently occurred in this country. It was trial where no live witnesses were permitted to testify, no cross-examination was allowed to take place, no rebuttals to any statements could be made, and no period of discovery of the evidence was given. What was allowed, however, was for the jurors to publicly announce their verdict of the case before any evidence had been presented. The jurors were also allowed to vote on whether or not to even have a trial before a single piece of evidence was presented.

The jurors numbered not 12 but 100. They were all elected members of the United States Senate. The man on trial was the president of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton. He was charged with high crimes and misdemeanors including perjury and obstruction of justice.

One of the many unique things about this trial is that the jurors were not just passing judgment on the defendant's guilt or innocence, but rather on the severity of the crimes themselves. The Democrats were unanimous in their condemnation of the president's behavior, in regards to his adulterous affair with his 21-year-old intern, Monica Lewinsky. They also all agreed that his denials of the affair to the American people were inexcusable, and his misleading the grand jury was very naughty. His coaching potential witnesses and using his influence and authority to cover up the scandal was most unbecoming, the Democrats all agreed.

Yet in a schizophrenic tap dance seen through a maze of smoke

and mirrors, they towed the party line down to a man, by ending their condemnation of Bill Clinton with unwavering support for him and all he stands for. In the end the votes were drawn along party lines with the Democrats each and every one voting to acquit their leader and get on with the business of destroying, er, uh, running the country.

As the dog and pony show monopolized the talk shows and was the topic of discussion amongst the beltway pundits, a more sinister scandal with far deeper implications was brewing in the background. The Communist Chinese government it seems, was embarked on a systematic campaign of espionage, with the goal of stealing the American technology they need to manufacture their own multiple warhead intercontinental ballistic nuclear missiles.

There is nothing new or surprising about a Communist country involved in spying. The Communist system provides no incentive for innovation, hard work, experimentation or research. Communist nations have always existed by plundering the wealth and technology of people and nations that they have subdued by force of arms. China is no exception.

What is exceptional, however, is Bill Clinton and Al Gore breaking federal campaign laws by taking millions of dollars of Communist Chinese blood money for their 1996 presidential campaign and then covering the whole thing up with stonewalling and denials.

What is also exceptional is the Attorney General, Janet Reno

deciding not to investigate Johnny Chung or Al Gore. Former Clinton advisor and confidant, Dick Morris, made an astute observation when he pointed out that Janet Reno was the last cabinet member that Clinton announced would serve in his second term. The three months he kept her dangling was his way of telling her to play ball or get off the team. Janet Reno is suffering from Parkinson's disease. She is not a well woman and badly needs the job she has. The implication was clear—she would not investigate anyone embarrassing to Clinton or she would not continue to serve as the attorney general. According to Dick Morris, the fix was in.

What is also exceptional is the Clinton administration dragging its feet to take action about the espionage activity that was taking place at the government research facilities at Los Alamos, as the CIA and FBI had warned them about.

What is also exceptional is that Wen Ho Lee who allegedly is responsible for leaking so much of this top-secret, national security information was not shot nor arrested, but was simply fired from his job!

It seems that all of the accusations hurled against Clinton from the far reaches of the "vast right wing conspiracy" are always scoffed at and downplayed until someone in the straight media decides to take a closer look and discovers that they are all true. Not until something is published on the front pages of The New York Times, can it be believed.

Now that all of the feminists and women who voted for Clinton

of the Century

are feeling smug and self-righteous in his acquittal, they can sleep tight knowing they defended not only a liar and a cheat, but a rapist as well. The only thing more shocking and outrageous about the president of the United States being a rapist, is the fact that NBC news-one of the three major networks-had knowledge of the incident and decided to spike it, lest such an unpleasant story pressure Democratic Senators to change their already made-up minds during the impeachment trial.

The crimes that this administration and this president in particular, are guilty of is staggering. For President Clinton to have launched cruise missile attacks against Iraq on the eve of the House of Representatives' impeachment vote is an outrageous and despicable act of cowardice. In a desperate attempt to buy time to salvage his political fortunes he was willing to put the lives of American servicemen and women in harm's way, while spilling Iraqi blood in the process.

This is more or less the same distraction tactic he used when he attacked Osama Bin Laden and the pharmaceutical factory in the Sudan. These pointless and pitiful acts only give the fanatical enemies of the west new and justifiable excuses for the next wave of violence and destruction that is sure to come.

Instead of acting to protect American citizens and American interests, the actions of President Clinton directly jeopardize the lives and safety of all Americans both at home and abroad. All to save his

own political hide because he does not have the honesty, decency or integrity to do what anyone with a shred of honor would have done in his place, and that was to resign.

Treason, rape, perjury, betrayal and murder are words that should not be tossed around lightly. But in the case of President Clinton they are well justified.

With less than nine months left of his presidency, Clinton is desperately trying to salvage his legacy by attacking Serbia. Knowing full well that his administration is little more than a monument to lies, corruption, deceit and treason, he is all too well aware that time is running out for him to resurrect his tarnished image and claim a lofty place in the history books.

With the reckless abandonment of a compulsive gambler continually doubling his bet, Clinton is rolling the dice with the lives of thousands of American soldiers, not to mention the lives of NATO troops and those people native to what used to be Yugoslavia.

The mainstream media as NBC News has so demonstratively proved has its own agenda. Truth and their responsibility to peruse the truth has obviously taken a back seat to keeping their boy, and their vision of what is best for America in power.

As George Stephanopolis and other former Clinton insiders continue to jump ship, a much clearer picture of Bill Clinton and his presidency emerges. As these people write their books and make the lecture circuits, the public and the media that went through such great lengths to defend Clinton will have

to eventually face the truth and own up to the true Machiavellian nature of the man they once championed.

American Military forces are actively engaged in combat in the very same part of the world that sparked World War I. No one in the entire Clinton administration has a clue-not Madeleine Albright, not Sandy Berger, not William Cohen-no one.

Even Jimmy Carter had Zbigniew Brzezinski the one man in his entire administration that understood how the game of nations is played.

Clinton has the blind leading the blind.

The song and laughter of those who celebrated Bill Clinton's acquittal have long since, faded, and the ugly and undeniable true picture of the man has emerged. We see a man who raped in order to satisfy his sexual desires, and a man who has jeopardized and may kill thousands of people in the Balkans, just to salvage his well-deserved image as a monster.

The Democrats had their chance to remove this man from office, but they did not. They chose instead, to ignore the facts of reality and look the other way. We are already reaping the bitter harvest from the seeds they have sown by their moral cowardice and the abdication of their duties to the Constitution of the United States.

The only question that remains is what price will we have to pay for the bragging rights of saying we were right all along?



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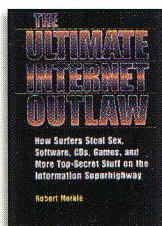
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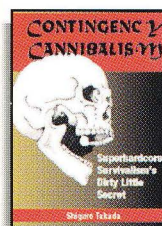
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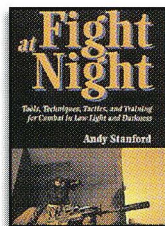


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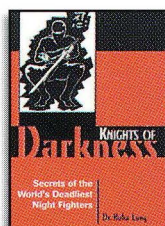
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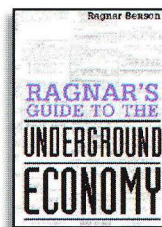


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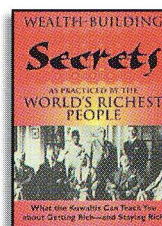
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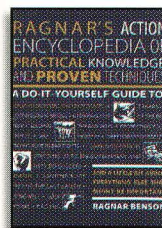


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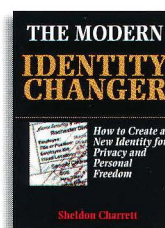


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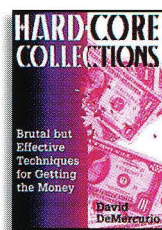


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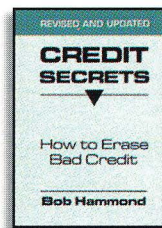


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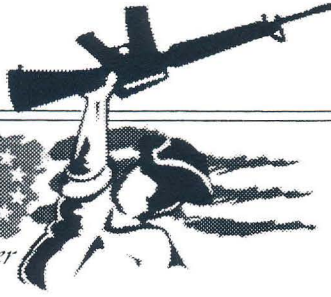
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THE PARTISAN

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*The Journal of the
American Freedom Fighter*



May 12, 1999

Dear Fellow Patriot,

Let me begin by thanking you for your courage and kindness in supporting *The Partisan* with your subscription. We never take our readers for granted. We know that ultimately our success or failure will depend on our ability to do a good job, produce a quality product and maintain our integrity in the process. You will be the judge.

The second issue of *The Partisan* has obviously arrived late—very late. It is three months late to be precise. In essence, the Winter issue was never published. I accept full responsibility for this and I most sincerely apologize. Everyone who subscribed for a year (four issues) will get all four issues, so don't worry.

We were a bit overwhelmed from the reaction to the first issue. I would also be less than truthful if I didn't admit that I thoroughly underestimated the magnitude of all that is involved in publishing a magazine like *The Partisan*. I was unrealistic in my time estimates of how long it would take to produce an issue of the magazine with the resources I had at hand.

I had the option of either getting something out on time, or taking more time and producing a quality product. I chose the latter. I reasoned that you would rather wait for something worth waiting for, instead of getting something very mediocre on time. Being late is not acceptable—especially this late. I will make it a priority to make sure this does not happen again.

We got a lot of mail and phone calls from folks wondering if we had gone belly up. We have not. *The Partisan* is alive and well.

The reaction to the first issue was truly incredible. So many people expressed very profound, personal feelings about how much they appreciated our efforts and what we are trying to achieve. Our task is not an easy one.

Being right in the epicenter of the storm, just a few miles north of Littleton, CO. we felt all of the rage and ugliness of the politicians and media eager to blame gun owners for the horrible tragedy that took place at Columbine High School. We will not apologize for owning guns. We will not accept the concept of collective guilt, nor collective punishment. Everything we hold sacred stands in stark contrast to what two teen-aged gunmen did at Columbine High School. We are not to blame and we will not allow blame nor guilt to be cast upon us. There will be more on the Columbine shootings in the next issue.

This issue of *The Partisan* went to the printer before the killings at Columbine High School. Keep that in mind when you read "The Great Gun Grab

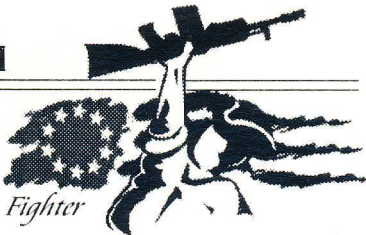
Our new phone number is (303) 774-6539. Please feel free to call us.

Thank you again for your support.

Bob Glass—Publisher

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